

Up, up and out!

Gay and lesbian military discharges continue to climb under DADT.

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Meet the 'Queen of Mean'

Acidic LA gay columnist Paulo Murillo pulls no punches.

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Oscar: the naked truth  
Nominations and surprises from the Academy this year.

see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971



Rosie O'Donnell

## Rosie comes out swingin'

by Cynthia Laird

Talk-show host Rosie O'Donnell finally came out of the closet on national television last Thursday, March 14, telling the world what many in the LGBT community have known for years — that she is a lesbian.

O'Donnell, who has three adopted children and lives with her partner, Kelli Carpenter, said, "I don't think America knows what a gay parent looks like: I am a gay parent."

The entertainer, whose sexual orientation was one of the industry's biggest open secrets for years, was interviewed by Diane Sawyer on ABC's *Primetime* show. O'Donnell was adamant that she's never hidden her sexual orientation; friends were equally outspoken about O'Donnell never denying her lesbianism in a *People* magazine cover story that coincided with the television interview.

Actually, O'Donnell's carefully orchestrated coming-out process started last month, when Barbara Walters casually mentioned it on her ABC show, *The View*.

"Part of the reason why I've never said that I was gay until now was because I didn't want that adjective assigned to my name for all eternity. You know, gay Rosie O'Donnell," she told Sawyer.

Much of last week's two-hour program was devoted to the issue of gay adoption, focusing on a former Florida gay male couple who are fighting the state to adopt one of their five foster children. O'Donnell, who maintains a home in Florida, heard about that case and decided to come out in the hopes that she could use her celebrity to help overturn Florida's ban on gay adoptions.

O'Donnell was candid, at times funny, and honest during the interview.

Locally, gay family advocates were generally pleased with O'Donnell's performance.

"I thought she did great," Kate Kendell, executive director of the Na-

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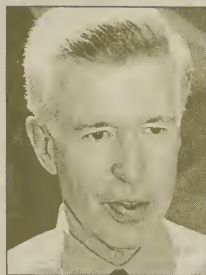
## Gov. Davis instructs staff to review civil union law

by Matthew S. Bajko

Governor Gray Davis has instructed his staff to review how California could enact civil union legislation, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned.

While the staff working group likely will look at various issues of concern to the gay community, its main priority will be to analyze and review the issue of civil unions. Davis and his staff are in the process of selecting people to serve on the 12- to 15-member panel that could meet as early as this summer.

"I am establishing a task force to review what Vermont has done to find out if any of those measures are applicable to California," Davis told the *B.A.R.* in an interview this week. "This is a



Governor Gray Davis

relatively new concept. Vermont is the only place which has adopted it."

The move comes two months after a civil union bill introduced by Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) failed to move out of an Assembly committee and was tabled. Koretz has vowed to push for the passage of civil union legislation for as long as he is in office.

While surprised to hear about the staff working group, Koretz said it could only help move toward the creation of civil unions in the state.

"I think the need for the bill is obvious and this will only help the bill pass," said Koretz, who plans to reintroduce his Family Protection Act in 2003. "At the same time I know the governor and legislators are not there yet. This is a very hopeful, a very

positive development. I hope it will result in the passage of civil unions during the 2003-2004 session."

"I laud this as a fantastic step in protecting gay and lesbian families," said Scott Svonkin, Koretz's spokesman. "With the help of the advisory committee and its members, we should be able to take the necessary steps be-

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## Davis expected to sign order clarifying state's DP laws

by Matthew S. Bajko

Next week, Governor Gray Davis is expected to sign an executive order clarifying the state's laws regarding same-sex survivors of victims of violent crimes. Lawyers for the state are currently drafting the document's language.

The move is in response to recent comments made by Kenneth Feinberg, special master of the federal September 11 Victim Compensation Fund, who said he would rely on state laws in reviewing claims filed by same-sex or domestic partners of the victims.

"The governor is looking at, will be taking some executive actions to hopefully indicate to the special master in Washington that for the purposes of California law, these victims are covered by our laws," Eric C. Bauman, special assistant to the governor, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Obviously, he is concerned that somebody who is suffering from the loss of their partner is not cut out or left out in the cold."

To date, only one state resident is known to have lost their partner in the terror attacks. Novato resident Keith Bradkowski lost his longtime partner,

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## Dog mauling defense bares teeth at SF gays

by Ed Walsh

Prosecutors and supporters of dog-mauling victim Diane Whipple are fuming over a charge by defense lawyer Nedra Ruiz that lead prosecutor Jim Hammer hid evidence to "curry favor" with San Francisco's gay community.

During her closing argument on Monday, March 18, Ruiz told jurors: "What is the prosecution's excuse in keeping this evidence from you? Maybe he [Hammer] wants to curry favor from the homosexual and gay folks who were picketing 2398 Pacific [the apartment building where Whipple lived] and were demanding justice for Diane Whipple. Maybe that's his motivation for hiding this from you."

As she spoke, Ruiz held a bag of Whipple's shredded clothing. The bag also contained a piece of a sweatshirt sleeve that belonged to her client, Marjorie Knoller. That evidence bolsters Ruiz's claim that Knoller acted heroically as she tried to fight off the dogs.

Hammer strongly denied that he hid any evidence, telling reporters that on the contrary, he "stipulated" to the evidence, allowing it to be brought in without challenge.

Knoller is being charged with second-degree murder and involuntary manslaughter. She was with her two Presa Canario dogs during the deadly January 26, 2001 attack on



Prosecutor James Hammer held a cast of Bane's jaw during closing arguments in the dog-mauling trial.

Whipple, her neighbor. Knoller's husband, Robert Noel, faces involuntary manslaughter as his most serious charge. Each also faces a charge of keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being.

The executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Kate Kendell, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Ruiz's comments left her nearly speechless. Kendell is also one

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## 'Family Night' at the Y



Lesbian parents Indigo, left, and Eva watched as their 10-month-old baby Taj had fun on a slide at Our Family Coalition's fourth "Family Night" at the Berkeley YMCA Saturday, March 16. The evening started with a pizza party and children and adults enjoyed games, swimming, water basketball, and arts and crafts. The Berkeley YMCA donated its facilities and staff for the event as a way of helping "build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities," according to organizers.

## Breast cancer benefit dinner next Friday

by Katie Szymanski

Three years ago, the board and staff at the AIDS Emergency Fund went forward with their plans to acknowledge women's efforts during the AIDS crisis and provide low-income breast cancer patients with the same living expense assistance the organization had long provided to people with AIDS. Today, the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund is responsible for helping women with breast cancer to pay their phone and utility bills and obtain their necessary medical supplies, but it survives solely on volunteers, donations, and fundraising like next Friday's benefit dinner.

On March 29 at 7 p.m., Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt, leather com-

munity matriarch and last year's Pride Parade grand marshal, will host the BCEF dinner along with AEF's Peter Fiske. Appropriately entitled, "We Are Family: A Thank You to the Community," the dinner will take place at the Fort Mason Officer's Club at Bay and Van Ness streets in the Marina District of San Francisco. The event will feature a silent auction, a three-course meal, and entertainment by Donna Sachet, Kathleen Antonia, and Irene Soderberg. Tickets are \$75, and while last year's dinner brought in \$21,000, organizers are hoping to raise \$10,000 in this current economic climate. BCEF, like AEF, tends to have a stellar fundraising record that gives 90 cents of every dollar raised directly to the people who need it. And if that weren't

reason enough to attend next week's dinner, consider this: no other program in Northern California reliably covers non-medical costs or essential living expenses for low-income individuals with disabling breast cancer.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Bay Area women, and is the leading cause of death for California women aged 40 to 55. Over 40,000 women per year in the United States die from the disease.

To purchase tickets for the BCEF dinner, visit the organization's headquarters at 1540 Market Street, Suite 320, during business hours, or go to Mama's Web site at [www.mamasfamily.org](http://www.mamasfamily.org) and follow the BCEF dinner link. For more information, call (415) 292-9808, ext. 2. ▼

## FTM, related support groups at New Leaf

by Katie Szymanski

Female-to-male transgenders and other female or intersexed born individuals questioning their gender are invited to participate in two new support groups forming at New Leaf Services. Both groups will be led by respected therapist and author Patrick Califia, MFT.

"Questioning Gender" will be an ongoing, drop-in therapy group for anyone born female or intersexed who is questioning gender. The group will focus on clarifying issues and supporting participants for any choice they

make about their identities; all sexual orientations are welcome. An eight-week commitment is requested, with the option to attend additional sessions as needed. The time slot for the group is scheduled for Wednesday nights from 7-8 p.m.

The therapy group for transmen is for people who were not born male but have decided to live in an FTM/male identity. Testosterone and surgery are not prerequisites to join this group, and again, all sexual orientations are welcome. The group will be a safe place to talk about the problems and rewards of being a transman. It will take place on Saturdays

from noon until 1:30 p.m.

New Leaf provides a complete range of services for transgender people, including letters for hormones and surgery where an outside doctor requires it. Whether someone in the group would qualify, according to Califia, will be determined on a case by case basis.

The therapy groups at New Leaf are looking to begin by the end of March or beginning of April. Fees are determined on a sliding scale according to income, and New Leaf does accept Medi-Cal. To join one of the groups, contact Patrick Califia at (415) 626-7000, ext. 423, to schedule an intake interview. ▼

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# Barebackers unswayed by safe sex messages

by Matthew S. Bajko

For men who like to bareback, the physical and emotional motivations far outweigh the motivations for protecting their own health and their partner's health, reports a new study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The findings suggest there is a need for innovative prevention strategies that specifically address the needs of this particular group of men and for continued research on microbicides, products that may prevent the spread of HIV, as an alternative for condoms.

"These people are decidedly not using a condom, so any message focusing on condoms is not going to work. A whole new approach is needed," said CDC behavioral scientist Gordon Mansergh, the lead author of the study. "We need prevention messages that are not focusing on HIV but more with a healthy lifestyle approach."

The study, published in this month's issue of *AIDS* and also presented at the National STD

Conference in San Diego earlier this month, provides the first quantitative analysis of the socio-cultural phenomenon of barebacking.

In the San Francisco-based study, conducted from July 2000 to February 2001, Mansergh and his colleagues surveyed 554 men who have sex with men (MSM) to gain a better understanding of the awareness, motivations, and context of barebacking.

The authors defined barebacking as "intentional anal sex without a condom with men who are not a primary partner." Of those surveyed, 390 men were aware of the term barebacking and, thus, considered more likely to be part of the barebacking phenomenon. Among these 390 men, 14 percent (53) reported barebacking in the past two years.

When asked about their last barebacking encounter, many men reported partners of the same HIV serostatus. However, of the 28 HIV-infected men who had barebacked, 38 percent (13) reported insertive intercourse with a partner of different or unknown HIV serostatus. Of the 23 HIV-

negative men who had barebacked, 39 percent (9) reported receptive intercourse with a partner of different or unknown HIV serostatus.

Greater physical stimulation and emotional connectedness with a partner were given as the top reasons for barebacking. Additionally, 19 percent of men who had barebacked agreed that improved treatments caused them to have more unprotected sex and 58 percent (30) reported being drunk or high during their last barebacking encounter.

"Mentally, I already feel I have caught the worst of the disease so my precaution level is optional. Why give up the physical aspect of (sex) when I already have HIV?" said one HIV-positive 33-year-old San Francisco resident who frequently barebacks.

While the man said he would probably use a microbicide to protect himself from being reinfected or infecting his partner, the man said he could only think of one reason why he would stop barebacking.

"If they come up with a sexual disease that instantly kills you, then yes, but other than that, no," he said. "I would think I would use a microbicide as long as there are no side effects like irritated skin."

The study found that more barebackers than non-barebackers said they would be willing to use, without a condom, a future rectal microbicide lubricant that was only 50 percent effective in preventing HIV infection. Seventy-five percent of bareback bottoms and 79 percent of bareback tops said they would use such a product.

While clinical trials are being conducted on such products, currently there is nothing available on the market. In the meantime, Mansergh said prevention messages should be targeted for two separate audiences: those men who do bareback and those men who are contemplating barebacking.

"We have found there are more multiple needs with these guys and we need to look at interventions that can address that," he said. "It is something that is very different from what is done now."

As the operators of [www.barebackcity.com](http://www.barebackcity.com) state on their Web site, "We are here for those who want to live this lifestyle, and don't feel that they fit in to the 'safe-sex world.'" ▼

## Free pride parade floats available to nonprofits

by Katie Szymanski

Nonprofit groups that have shied away from Pride Parade participation in the past due to expenses have an incentive to ride up Market Street this year, as the San Francisco LGBT Pride Committee has just purchased five float-ready trailers for community use. Two of the trailers will be used by the Pride Committee this year, but three trailers – already decorated with fringe, and complete with props like arches and risers – will be donated for nonprofits to use for the parade.

The acquisition of the trailers – which range in size from 24 to 30 feet long – came about when the owner of Ickler Productions of the East Bay decided to retire. Ickler had rented to many Pride Parade participants in the past, and "We were anxious about the fact that there are very few people with this equipment in the Bay Area," according to Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington. "We didn't want to see a monopoly on the equipment and we wanted to make sure our parade and others had access."

The Pride Committee spent \$30,000 on the trailers, an investment that Witherington believes will pay for itself, as the trailers will also be rented to other parades at a discounted cost. The

trailers are currently kept in Gilroy, but will be moved to Pier 45 in San Francisco at the end of May, where they will remain until the parade on Sunday, June 30.

The cost of building a float can run up to \$6,000, once truck rentals and decorations are factored in. But three lucky groups this year will enjoy their own float at little to no cost at all. Eligible groups will be chosen on the basis of a design contest, with applications and guidelines available online.

"We're holding a contest so that at least three groups can submit to us their creative visions and get the chance to propel their vision of who they are," said Witherington.

To be eligible to enter the contest the applicant must be a Bay Area nonprofit organization whose mission involves services to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community and/or people living with HIV and AIDS or positive outreach/education to the general public about those issues. In addition, a minimum of five volunteers from the organization must work on the construction of the float, and a minimum of six wheel monitors must be supplied on the parade route.

The closing date for the design contest is Monday, April 15. The designs will be reviewed and a decision will be made in early May. For more information, visit [www.sfpdride.org/float.htm](http://www.sfpdride.org/float.htm). ▼



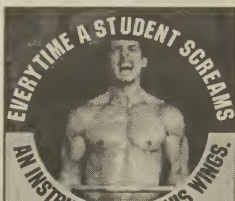
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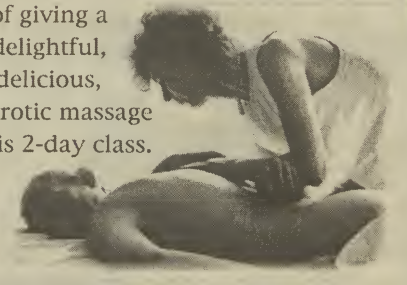
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## 'Spring Fling' in San Francisco



Comedienne Elvira Kurt, center, chats with Harvey Milk Institute Executive Director Kevin Schaub, right, and board co-chair Sini Anderson during a break at the institute's annual "Spring Fling" fundraiser March 14. It was an evening of comedy, drag, food, and music, all to support the educational programs of the institute. HMI is now in its new home at the Charles M. Holmes Campus of the LGBT Community Center. Classes are ongoing, and interested people can check out the new catalog or call (415) 552-7200 for more information.

## AIDS researchers call for drastic changes in HIV prevention

by Matthew S. Bajko

An advertisement shows a healthy looking man rock climbing. The caption above the man reads: "I hope there is a Port-O-Potty up there."

The side effects of HIV medications are also listed, including diarrhea. Aside this is a photo of a toilet, with the tagline "HIV is on the rise. Don't be part of the second wave."

Where can you see such truth in advertising? Nowhere.

And that is part of the reason why HIV infections continue to increase among gay and bisexual men across the country, said Dr. Tom Coates, a leader in HIV prevention and AIDS studies.

"We don't see ads like this out and about anymore in the Castro. We need prevention ads that make people think," said Coates.

Coates showed the doctored ad — a take on an advertisement for an HIV medication that depicted a group of HIV-positive men rock climbing — during an HIV treatment update forum Tuesday, March 19.

Along with a return to provocative messages, Coates said the gay community has to change its attitudes toward people who are HIV-positive.

"We are so used to thinking of HIV-positive people as the vic-

tims, we are afraid to think of an HIV-positive person as responsible," said Coates, who is HIV-positive. "Why do we tolerate people who are HIV-positive and spreading the disease?"

Coates spoke to more than 100 people gathered at the University of California, San Francisco campus to hear about the latest HIV/AIDS research and treatments. When asked why the Castro is devoid of in-your-face AIDS advertising, he blamed the city's various AIDS agencies for not running the ads anymore.

"Talk to the [San Francisco] AIDS Foundation, Stop AIDS and the city's health department. I think they are being irresponsible," responded Coates.

Coates first expressed his exasperation with the gay community's attitudes toward safe-sex and prevention last fall in an interview with Gay.com. In the interview, he suggested it may be time to end prevention programs.

His frustration was still apparent this week.

"Why not? I am willing to try anything at this point," he responded to a question on starting a condom exchange program.

Dr. Marcus Conant, founder of the Conant Foundation, echoed Coates's comments that prevention is not working in the March edition of his foundation's newsletter.

"Traditional public health prevention methods are not working," wrote Conant, who discussed the newsletter's contents at the forum. "If we cannot control the rate of new HIV infections in San Francisco, the best informed, best educated and most affluent at-risk group in the world, we will not be able to stop the global pandemic."

Also discussed at the forum is the ballooning epidemic of hepatitis C, with 4 million people already infected.

"I think we are already too late," said Dr. Michelle Roland, with UCSF's Positive Health Program. "We need to be proactive to meet the needs of people infected with hep C. It is a far worse epidemic than we have with HIV."

Unlike hepatitis A and B, there is no vaccine yet for hepatitis C. Nor do health officials fully understand how the disease is being transmitted.

"I don't know," responded Roland when asked how easy it is to contract hepatitis C sexually.

The researchers stressed the need for people to get vaccinated for hepatitis A and B, practice safe sex, and talk about HIV and AIDS with their sexual partners.

"Prevention has got to go back to the community. The community has got to say it is not okay to spread HIV," said Coates. "Until that is done, nothing is going to change." ▼

## SJ Pride committee hosts Oscar party Sun.

by Cynthia Laird

The Gay Pride Celebration Committee of San Jose has announced it will host the fourth annual "Night at the Oscars" party this Sunday, March 24 in San Jose.

The fun-filled event brings together the South Bay's LGBT community and is one of the major fundraisers for the San Jose Pride organization. Tickets are \$60 per person and include dinner, a no-

host bar, silent auction, special entertainment, and of course, a chance to watch the Academy Awards on television.

"Oscar night has always been a great event for producing good revenue that is needed to provide working capital for the San Jose Gay Pride Celebration Committee," said Mark Hoffman, Pride Committee treasurer. "Fundraising has always been vital to the organization to produce the necessary funds to continue our community grant program, seeking

top entertainment, and putting on a successful Pride celebration."

This year's San Jose Pride takes place June 8 and 9.

Sunday's Oscar party takes place in the Corinthian Room at the Silicon Valley-Capitol Club Athletics, 196 North Third Street, in San Jose. The event starts at 4 p.m. Tickets are available by calling (408) 278-5563 or e-mailing your full contact information to info@sjgaypride.com. Put "Oscar Night Tickets" in the subject line. ▼



# AIDS advocate Jeff Getty retires from activism

by Katie Szymanski

After 15 years of battling the medical, pharmaceutical, and governmental establishments so that people with HIV/AIDS could access affordable and effective treatments, Jeff Getty has announced his retirement from activism.

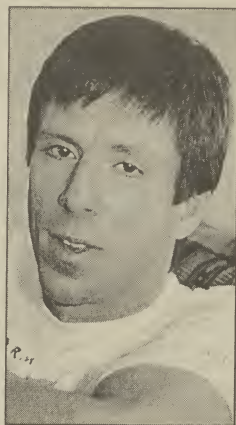
Getty, 45, who spent most of his activist years in San Francisco and now splits his time between Palm Springs and the Bay Area, said the decision to retire was a personal one, based on his health but also rooted in his belief that it is time to move on with his personal journey.

"I spent the last 15 years trying to keep myself and others alive, and through all the anger and frustration, the lesson I've learned is that we cannot turn our backs on sick people," said Getty. "Now I feel it's time for me to learn the next lesson."

Getty cited his own health complications from the stress involved with taking on activism projects, but he also said he wanted to pave the way for others to take on leadership roles.

"When the community sees the same person on television and in the media over and over, they start to wonder whether he's doing it to be in the spotlight," he explained. "The messages need to be heard without people second-guessing them."

Perhaps best known for receiving a bone marrow transplant from a baboon in an unsuccessful experimental AIDS operation in 1995, Getty also was instrumental, along with Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), in the effort to secure funding for the University of California to develop an organ transplant program for people with HIV. His most recent



Jeff Getty in 1995

cent accomplishments include getting drug companies to practice truth in advertising by toning down their depictions of people with HIV climbing mountains, and persuading the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to re-enforce San Francisco's law requiring shopkeepers to post warnings on the dangers of poppers and HIV transmission.

During his many years of leading demonstrations locally and nationally, Getty was also an integral part of ACT UP/Golden Gate, which later became Survive AIDS.

What his retirement means, according to Getty, is that he will no longer take an active role when it comes to advocacy projects. He will, however, continue to advise people on their personal and political battles.

"Part of what kept me doing this for as long as I have is all the phone calls I would receive from people who desperately needed transplants," said Getty. "I would

never turn my back on a sick person. But the door is open now for transplants, and while I will talk to people and help them with their strategies and choices, it's time for others to step in."

Other activists, acknowledged Getty, may be difficult to recruit in a climate that does not harbor as much fear around HIV/AIDS. But he does predict a reinvigoration of activism when healthcare cuts and long-term HIV drug use lead to a new wave of crises, including many more AIDS deaths.

"You can see the writing on the wall: long-term HIV treatment use is just as dangerous as having HIV. The drugs bought us time, but that time is running out," said Getty, recalling a recent visit to a hot tub where three gay men in their 40s were all discussing the heart attacks they had suffered. Also on the horizon, he said, will be the effects of HMO cuts. "Every year we're losing ground, and have to fight for our medicines to be included on formularies."

But Getty doesn't think that new activists will be recruited easily; many longtime activists are now on "AIDS Inc." payrolls, working for organizations that Getty believes "won't jump in and demand better treatments. They'll send you a newsletter telling you you're going to die, but they won't be willing to get arrested to keep you alive."

His years as a front-and-center activist, while over, were not for naught, as many people with HIV can attest.

"I have received a lot of messages of love and support, which in a lot of ways kept me going," he said.

But for now, Getty will concentrate on his own future, and hope — especially as the face of AIDS care changes — that others will step in to fill his shoes. ▼

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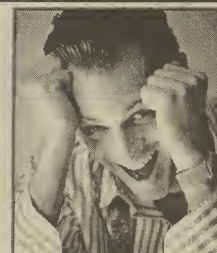
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## CAPS scholarship deadline approaches

by Matthew S. Bajko

Scholarships are available for the second annual Center for AIDS Prevention Studies conference to be held in San Francisco next month. The deadline to apply is Friday, March 29.

CAPS and the National AIDS Fund will host the "Addressing HIV Prevention in Context" conference on Friday, April 19. This year's workshops and presentations will focus on how to present HIV prevention in ways that address the individual, family, com-

munity and social contexts in which risk and prevention occur.

Topics to be discussed during the one-day gathering include: integrating prevention into direct care programs; primary prevention for HIV positive people; and multigenerational approaches to HIV prevention.

Keynote speakers at this year's event will be Rafael Diaz, director of the Center for Community Research, Institute on Sexuality, Inequality and Health at San Francisco State University, and Kandy Ferree, president and CEO of the National AIDS Fund.

There are only a limited number of the needs-based scholarships available. Applicants who need to have the \$75 fee waived, or need reimbursement for travel and hotel costs, must write a paragraph describing their need and specify what costs they need to have covered. Those whose applications are selected will be notified by April 5.

Applications can be mailed to CAPS Conference c/o RDL Enterprises, 1412 20th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 or faxed to (916) 443-2037. For more information, call (916) 443-0218. ▼

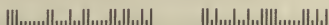
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## OPEN FORUM

## Coming out, blaming gays

Rosie O'Donnell's carefully choreographed public coming out on national television last week was — as most in the community will attest — better late than never. We were somewhat cynical before watching her interview; after all, we'd known for years that she was living with a woman. We felt that O'Donnell should have come out long ago, not just before the release of her book and before the end of her television talk show, which is scheduled to wrap in May.

But we were pleasantly surprised at O'Donnell's candor, humor, and honesty during the interview. She wanted America to know that she is a good parent to her three adopted children, and that she is a gay parent. O'Donnell used the interview to push for equal rights for gays and lesbians to adopt children in states such as Florida, which bans the practice, although state officials apparently feel that gays and lesbians can be foster parents. (O'Donnell and her partner maintain a home in the Sunshine State, though she adopted her children in other states that don't prohibit gays from adopting.)

And, while we cringed along with other gays and lesbians watching the show when O'Donnell said she hoped her own children would grow up straight, we could plainly see that she was attempting to play to middle America with her response. That was probably the only down side of her interview, and we agree with others who believe that eventually O'Donnell will come to regret the remark.

Regardless of that comment, we applaud O'Donnell's decision to go public and if she can help put a face on gay parenting, so much the better. Being gay, O'Donnell said, does not make someone a bad parent. And while children of gay parents can face ridicule from their peers, O'Donnell thinks they can get past that.

Now if only adults could get past their homophobia and realize that gays are loving, supportive parents, just like their heterosexual counterparts.

At the other end of the spectrum is this week's revelation from Nedra Ruiz, the defense attorney representing Marjorie Knoller in the dog-mauling trial, that prosecutors took the case to "curry favor of the homosexual and gay folks" in San Francisco.

The victim in the case, Diane Whipple, was a lesbian and her longtime partner, Sharon Smith, has been repeatedly attacked by Ruiz during the trial — both in and out of the Los Angeles courtroom.

Ruiz's attacks on Smith in particular and the gay community in general are an outrage. The case, which went to the jury Tuesday morning after several weeks of testimony, is about justice for Whipple and holding the caretakers of two vicious dogs responsible for the fatal mauling.

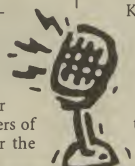
While Ruiz has every right to mount a vigorous defense on behalf of her client, she has demonstrated repeatedly during the trial that she is more about theatrics and blaming the victim. Prosecutor Jim Hammer was wise not to respond to Ruiz's latest diatribe. And we are confident that the jury will see through her flimsy attempts to turn the case into one about the gay community. It is not.

Knoller, facing a second-degree murder

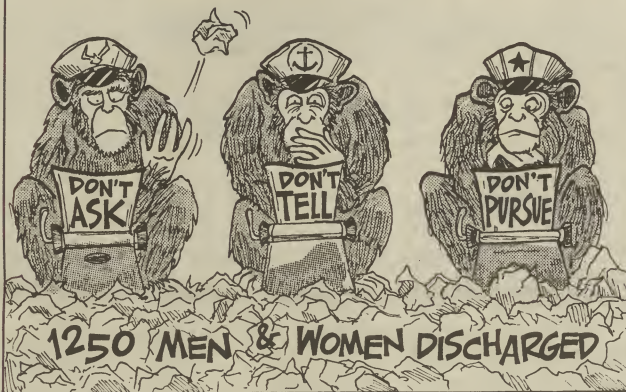
charge, and her husband Robert Noel (also a defendant in the case but on lesser charges) have only themselves to blame for their poor public image. Neither have shown remorse for Whipple's tragic death, apart from Knoller's brief emotional outburst on the witness stand. Funny, she didn't shed a tear when she went on national television just after the attack.

Finally, we need to correct something we mentioned last week in this space about the eligibility of survivors of same-sex couples to apply for the federal victims compensation fund. It now appears that the executive order

issued last fall by New York Governor George Pataki does not apply to the survivors in that state for purposes of receiving federal compensation. That said, we stand by the editorial. It now seems that it will be an uphill battle for same-sex survivors to become eligible for federal compensation no matter where they live. ▼



Editorial

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
WRITES ABOUT GAYS IN THE MILITARYVermont medical pot update:  
A hero prepares to betray us

by Bruce Mirken

To gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans, Vermont Governor Howard Dean is a hero — and deservedly so. When the religious right fought a desperate battle to stop Vermont's civil unions law, Governor Dean stood firm for what he believed was right. In large part because of this man's courage, same-sex couples have the same rights as heterosexual couples under Vermont law.

But right now all signs are that Governor Dean is preparing to betray our brothers and sisters with AIDS. It is up to us to change his mind.

On March 15 the Vermont House of Representatives passed H. 645, which would protect seriously ill patients from the possibility of arrest and jail for using medical marijuana with their doctors' recommendation. The 82-59 vote was particularly historic because it marked the first time a Republican-controlled legislative house has passed a medical marijuana law.

This should have been the hardest step, since Vermont's Senate is controlled by the Democrats, who have historically been more open-minded than Republicans about medical marijuana. But Dean is also a Democrat, and a hard-line opponent of any liberalization of marijuana laws, even for medical use. Word around the Statehouse is that Dean is leaning on Democratic senators to kill the bill or bottle it up in committee, so that he won't have to veto it.

A veto would be politically inconvenient, since a recent poll showed that three-quarters of Vermont voters want to legalize medical marijuana for the seriously ill. But if the bill does pass, a veto by Dean is considered a strong possibility.

That would be a tragedy for Vermonters with AIDS or other serious illnesses. In our community, we have seen the benefits of medical marijuana again and again. We've seen it help people with wasting syndrome eat enough to stay alive. More recently, marijuana has helped thousands cope with the nausea and lack of appetite that is often caused by the unforgiving anti-HIV drug cocktails they must take to keep their virus in check.

My friend Mary is typical. After a dozen years of fighting HIV she says bluntly, "I'm alive because of medical marijuana." Without it, the side effects of her medications would be intolerable.

Mary is lucky: She lives in California, which legalized medical use of marijuana in 1996. But last October federal agents shut down the medical cannabis co-op where Mary received her supply safely. Until she found a safe alternative source she had to do without — and lost 12 pounds in three weeks.

As the full-page ad that appeared in the March 6 *New York Times* showed, medical marijuana is no longer a fringe issue. It is supported by everyone from Walter

Crunkite to the American Public Health Association, not to mention the National Association of People With AIDS and such esteemed physicians as former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders and noted AIDS researcher Dr. Michael Saag.

Governor Dean is a physician himself. He should listen to the voices of his colleagues as well as those of the sick and the people who care for them. He must remember the ancient physician's credo: First, do no harm. Killing H. 645 — whether it's done by public veto or private stealth — would do immense harm.

Please write to: Governor Howard Dean, M.D., 109 State Street, Pavilion, Montpelier, VT 05609-0101. Or you can send

your letter by fax to (802) 828-3339.

If you've used medical marijuana or know someone who has, tell the governor about it. And tell him that you want to be able to think of him as one of our community's heroes, not as a betrayer of our most weak and vulnerable. ▼

Bruce Mirken, acting director of communications at the Marijuana Policy Project ([www.mpp.org](http://www.mpp.org)), is a longtime health journalist who has covered HIV/AIDS research and policy for *AIDS Treatment News*, *Poz*, the *Advocate*, and *California Hospitals*, among other publications.



Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

## Honesty is best

Paula Martinac ("About the 'P' word," *Lesbian Notions*, March 14), is right when she notes that positive views toward adult-youth relationships have been a staple of gay literature, and when she sees an inconsistency between gay males' (private) veneration of intergenerational romance and their (public) disassociation from the dreaded "P" word. But she is wrong when she implies that there is some political nirvana to be reached by condemning all adult/youth relationships irrespective of the actual experiences of those who took part.

She attributes gay men's too-approving attitudes to "ignorance." I write as a man who first became sexually active with older men at age 12, voluntarily. More than 20 years later I still regard the experience as positive both in affect (feeling) and effect, and I know others who can say the same.

I have also studied the subject, interested in its special qualities as a hot-button political issue. As it turns out, there are no empirical studies that show sexual experience to be harmful to boys of any age, except when force or coercion are specifically reported as part of the experience. And what's more, even when the coercive cases are factored in, the research shows that most boys do not feel negatively about their sexual experiences with adults even years later. Those reports which imply that sex is harmful to boys do so only by observing the outcomes of non-consensual experiences and improperly generalizing them (in fact, most of the overgeneralizing is done by studying only girls in treatment settings and applying the results to all cases, including boys). I can happily name a dozen examples if asked. And I can name several studies that looked closely at boys' consensual experiences and found them harmless.

It is true that girls' experiences, on average, differ markedly and tend to be both coercive (in about half of all cases) and negative (in about 70-80 percent of all cases) — a difference that might explain the large perceptual gap between Martinac and the gay men she chastises.

I believe that honesty is the best policy. In a good many cases, those gay men who demur to join the chorus of clucking about "pedophilia," or who draw a distinction between different types of experiences, are being true to themselves, the memory of who they were as youths, and to the real experiences of people they know. I wish more gay men, and lesbians, would have the courage to be so honest.

David Miller  
San Francisco

## Some adults exploit youth

I just read Paula Martinac's column in the *Bay Area Reporter* ("About the 'P' word," *Lesbian Notions*, March 14). I wanted to say what a wonderfully written and very important message she has conveyed. It is a topic that so many people in the GLBTQ community are simply too ignorant or afraid of to raise, but raise it we must. As she noted it certainly is being raised by groups bent on destroying us. Before moving to S.F., I used to work at the Hetrick-Martin Institute in New York, a queer youth service and advocacy organization. We saw first-hand the damage and destruction brought on the lives of some of the young people we served at the hands of adults who exploited their youth and naiveté. Oftentimes the youth preyed upon were the most vulnerable of the vulnerable — kids kicked out of their homes by parents and family — who were so desperately seeking approval, care, and validation from adults to replace that lost from their parents.

No, this is not a subject many in our community would like to address, but it must be in order to foster a dialogue which will hopefully bring about its end. Like other sensitive topics like domestic violence and unsafe sex practices, many in our community fear a backlash if we air our "dirty laundry." But we all know that saying nothing brings about even worse results.

I applaud Martinac for her courage, and it is my hope that this small note will be repeated many more times over and outnumber any negative feedback she might receive.

Randall Cole  
San Francisco

## Political committees victories

I enjoyed reading Katie Szymanski's article "Queers elected to SF political committees" [*March 14*] because I put a lot of work and enthusiasm into helping elect our mostly "first-timer/grassroots" candidates for the Democratic County Central Committee's (DCCC) progressive reform slate of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club.

San Francisco, the most liberal among the country's major cities, has a majority non-white population. It is an almost "one-party city." An election analysis of the DCCC is relevant for understanding future political trends in the city. It controls local endorsements and therefore who gets elected in S.F. The DCCC used to serve as one of the most important conduits for soft money for machine politics in SF —

until two years ago when the first wave of progressive reformers won seats and started the change, with the support of the Milk Club.

This time, the slate backed by the Milk Club won nine seats in District 13 and four in District 12, replacing the majority of the DCCC (representatives of political consultants, soft money, and negative campaigning) with an even stronger progressive presence than before.

Given the all-pervasive climate of bigotry, racism, and xenophobia that arose in the U.S. after September 11 (evident in San Francisco with the recent strong defeat of Proposition C which would've allowed non-U.S. citizens to serve on commissions) it was not a minor accomplishment that we helped elect a truly diverse slate that includes two African Americans, two Asians, and one Latino. This group is not only ethnically diverse but also inclusive in terms of gender, age, and sexual orientation (with women, youth, seniors, and queers represented).

The message is very clear: a new wave of "progressive-at-heart" candidates that will redefine the ideological balance and direction of the DCCC.

Comparing this group with the central committees of the other parties in San Francisco, you find that the other parties have almost no representation of ethnic and sexual minorities. What is even more paradoxical and more important is if you compare the political history and activism of the DCCC's recently elected group with the others, it is evident that this committee is by far the most radical (by progressive standards) official political club in the city.

Perhaps this sort of thing doesn't happen anywhere else but in this city. It is San Francisco, after all! That's why I live here.

As a queer activist and immigrant from Argentina who considers S.F. one of the few places in the U.S. where it is safer to be a "color naturalized American citizen," these recent achievements of the Milk Club are a good reason for personal joy and political pride.

Enrique Asis, Vice-President Political Affairs  
Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

## Reduced to incrementalism

I read with dismay Dale Carpenter's column ("The myth of transgender Stonewall," March 7). I leave to my colleagues in other fields the historicity of any group's participation in the events of 1969. My dismay rests with Carpenter's desire to chastise legislative efforts to include protections for transgender people and others.

I acknowledge with regret the political climate in the U.S. that has reduced us to tactics of incrementalism. Certainly, Mr. Carpenter, drafting legislation is an "immensely complicated" task. However, I am weary of individuals who claim the challenges of effective coalition building as a wedge to dismiss repeatedly the needs of some of our most vulnerable.

Not so long ago, same-sex orientation was unquestionably sufficient grounds to withhold a seat at the table. Now that some of us can afford to be explicit about the lives we lead while ascending(?) into the mainstream of the middle class, how quick we are to round on former allies and deny the needs of those further down the hill. To deploy "gay white racists" is a rhetorical device simply not worthy of comment. I only hope Carpenter's law students don't draft briefs with that sort of specious reasoning.

As Carpenter should know, just because it's law doesn't make it just. We still live with *Bowers v. Hardwick*, leaving aside the issue of state sodomy statutes. Thus, to curry favor from power beehives we are not at all. So divided, so we remain conquered. An inclusive progressive agenda cannot advance if we surrender to the petty competition of identity politics, as Patricia Hill Collins reminds us. Frankly, I do not want to claim privileges consciously bought on the backs of other people's dignity.

Simon J. Craddock Lee, MPH  
San Francisco

## Carpenter's 'Big Lie'

N.A. Diaman correctly states that "Stonewall was not the beginning of gay liberation." [*"Keep the record gay," Mailstrom, March 14*]. The earliest known U.S. demonstration for queer rights was co-sponsored by the Homosexual League of New York, on 19 September 1964, outside a military induction center in Manhattan (see: *Becoming Visible*). Pickets included gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and others; mostly anarchists, liberals, and humanists.

As for Dale Carpenter, his smaller distortions pale in comparison with his Big Lie — that queers must forget friendly political movements (ranging from anarchist to ACLU, Democrat, Libertarian, Green, etc.) which spoke up for our rights in the 20th century, when doing so required courage. Instead he wants us to vote for his Republican Party, traditionally a major enemy of personal and sexual freedoms, which just might permit us to kiss its royal butt, sometime in the

next page ►

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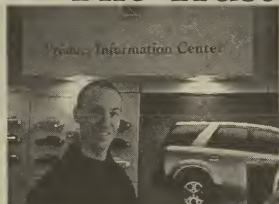
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Tortuga Bi Liberty  
San Francisco**PC runs amok**

Oh dear lord, how politically correct have we become? In Robert Kumara Hill's letter published March 14, he comments that he is an "African-American" who is "same-gender loving." Same-gender loving?

I applaud his wishes for racial unity – in the gay community and beyond – but feel terms like "same-gender loving" are only a way to further divide people.

What's next? We add "SGL" (same-gender loving) to the already overloaded (G)ay, (L)esbian, (B)isexual, (T)ransgendered, (Q)ueer and (Q)uestioning title that somehow is meant to define or be more inclusive of the "community" here. We don't need all those letters – God forbid "same-gender loving" – to identify that we're all just human beings who happen to be sexually different from the "norm." Mr. Hill, with all due respect, is a black gay guy or black fag ("fag" meant in a positive way, mind you), and no amount of "same-gender loving African American" language is going to make that any different. I'd write more, but my "same-gender life partner" is calling.

Craig Udit  
San Francisco**DEA's Catch-22**

Regarding the March 7 letter from the DEA's Richard Meyer, about the Harm Reduction Center pot bust.

As a news reporter, I made an attempt to talk with Mr. Meyer to get info regarding his desire to receive "accuracy in reporting" from the *S.F. Examiner* and the *B.A.R.* concerning the DEA's alleged use of dynamite in the above-mentioned bust.

According to Mr. Meyer's letter to *B.A.R.*, he claims that the DEA used "law enforcement tactics" but did not elaborate beyond that. In his final sentence he writes, "I hope your paper prints accurately how we gained entrance to the Harm Reduction Center."

I reached Mr. Meyer by phone but he was on vacation but he referred me to his office co-worker, who said the DEA "couldn't comment on the case." Question: How can the DEA expect "accuracy in reporting" when they're unwilling to provide info as to "how they gained entrance" but, when questioned, come up with a Catch-22 response?

Joe Kempkes  
Oakland, California**Drug discount available**

A substantial discount of 20 percent is available to pharmacy customers if they hold a Medicare card. This law by state Senator Jackie Speier requires pharmacies to charge a Medicare cardholder the price they charge the state for Medi-Cal prescriptions. In the Castro, ProCare pharmacy claims no knowledge of this two-year-old law. Readers of this paper should ask for the discount and insist upon it if it is denied to them.

John Cailleau  
San Francisco**Context for AIDS bowling nights**

As a volunteer in our community, I am compelled to write in response to the Citizens Against Government Waste's mischaracterization of the AIDS Health Project in the article "AIDS agencies receive vituperative Valentine," [February 21]. The broad-brush accusations made in the report from Citizens Against Government Waste misrepresent the facts; the AHP does not misuse federal funds. AIDS service organizations must manage their array of services utilizing many fund sources to serve their communities. With particular reference to the AHP, the bulk of its services are directly related to their psychosocial services mission. No federal funds are utilized for the social activities described in the article or report mentioned; the report writers were misled for activist purposes.

With regard to the AHP social events mentioned like bowling nights, please allow me to provide some perspective and context. Service organizations are now required by funding agencies to provide "culturally competent" services. In my view, these limited social events are an appropriate addition to AHP HIV counseling and group services in that they provide the opportunity for individuals at risk to build community. Much the same as bingo nights provide seniors an opportunity to interact and have social relationships, I believe it is culturally competent for the AHP to fund bowling nights as an adjunct service to the at-risk community. These events provide an opportunity for gay men to socialize and establish belonging in their community and it provides an alternative to many other potentially self-destructive behaviors if

they are left feeling isolated in the community. We all deal with our personal reactions to the homophobia we have historically faced in our lives, some better than others. I think it is admirable that the AHP provides these additional events for its clients in an effort to assist individuals in building positive lifestyles in the face of living with HIV or in facing the risk of infection.

In the future, please make more of an effort to research reports before they are utilized as newsworthy. In accepting this "red herring" as truth, you have been manipulated into further supporting false insinuations that may result in a general reduction in much needed federal funds for AIDS treatment services to the community at large.

Ron Kos, Chair  
AHP Community Advisory Board

[Editor's note: The story was about the report being released and local reaction to it. The article noted that the report was issued by a conservative taxpayers' group with ties to local anti-AIDS funding activists, and that the organizations mentioned by the group dismissed the report as being inaccurate and outdated.]

**'Gay vote' as fiction**

Now that the primary dust has mostly settled, can we put the "gay vote" misnomer to rest? There is this fiction in the media, whether purposely promulgated by special interests or a side-effect of sensational reporting, that people of a common sexual preference all vote alike. I know queers who are progressive, mainstream liberal, apathetic, libertarian, and even a self-described "Reagan Republican."

To listen to the media, Mark Leno and Harry Britt's chief qualification for state Assembly is to prefer a partner who is convex in front rather than concave. Selfishly, I would love it if this kind of dogmatic identity politics were true, as it would mean a lock on the election for me, but as candidates, we are running on our ideas, our ideals, and our plans.

The "gay community" (to the extent that such a monolithic lock-step entity exists) faces a real choice in the upcoming election. They can vote for a candidate who happens to be gay, but whose party is MIA on the national front ("Don't Ask, Don't Tell"). Or they can vote for a candidate whose party has unreservedly supported equal rights for all, with an explicit gay rights plank in its platform, since its founding 30 years ago.

Chris Maden  
Libertarian Candidate  
State Assembly, District 13**No 'machine' here**

To call the progressives who organized the Tom Ammann write-in campaign, elected several progressives to the Board of Supervisors, and successfully won nine seats on the Democratic County Central Committee a "machine" is ridiculous.

As one of those who helped start the Ammann write-in campaign in 1999 and who has remained active in trying to elect progressives, I believe this characterization is an attempt to discredit a movement that came together around fighting gentrification and the displacement of people of color, seniors, artists, and working-class folks in the Mission, stopping the evictions of thousands throughout the city during the dot-com invasion, and addressing homelessness and the growing disparity between the haves and the have-nots. This movement came into being because the current mayor and the former Board of Supervisors did nothing about any of those issues.

This is a movement that will not be dismissed, no matter how Wayne Friday, the *B.A.R.*, the *Bay Times*, or any other individual or paper tries to misrepresent it. It is a movement whose time is long past, a movement that believes in housing as a basic human right and homelessness as a failure on the part of our city and society to provide living-wage jobs, treatment on demand, free healthcare and affordable housing. A movement that stands for people over profits, neighborhoods over downtown, human concerns over big development.

If anyone is interested in what this movement is all about, see "Boom: The Sound of Evictions." It chronicles the fight against the gentrification of the Mission, a fight that many of those who now accuse us of being a machine were not involved in, that many papers never covered, that many politicians never supported. A fight that will not die until every person in this city has affordable housing, free healthcare and a living wage.

Tommi Avicelli Mecca  
San Francisco

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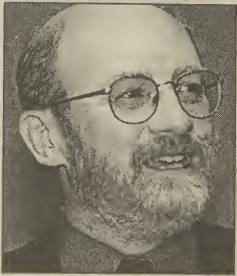
## POLITICS

# Gays and minorities do well in the primary

by Wayne Friday

Gays, Asian Americans, Latinos, and women candidates did well in state Senate and Assembly races in this month's primary election.

Gay men, thanks to **Mark Leno** (13th Assembly District) and **John Laird** (27th Assembly



Assembly candidate John Laird

District) are all but certain to hold two seats in the next Legislature, a far cry from a few years ago when Santa Monica's **Sheila Kuehl** (now a state senator) was the lone member of the LGBT community in the Legislature. There are now three lesbians in the Assembly, though one, **Carole Migden** (D-San Francisco) is termed out and will likely be replaced by Leno.

Latinos, who reportedly represent nearly one-third of the state's residents, should increase their numbers in the next 120-member Legislature to 27, up one from the current number, and, incidentally, a significant gain from only seven Latino legislators a decade ago. Democratic Latinos should gain three seats in the November election, raising their numbers in the Senate to nine and to 16 in the Assembly. Latino Republicans, by contrast, will likely lose two of their four current state Senate seats.

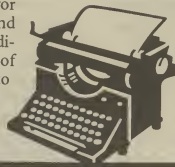
Asian Americans, now with about 11 percent of the state's population, could raise their representation in the next Legislature from four to six after the November election. One of those is San Francisco Supervisor **Leland Yee**, an educator who was born in China, who is the nominee in the 12th District, which is heavily Democratic and dominated by Asian Americans. Also, in the 10th Assembly District race (Amador County), Lodi Mayor **Alan Nakanishi**, a conservative Republican, is his party's nominee against a Latino Democrat, **Katherine Maestas**.

Women candidates did fairly well on March 5 as well; they expect to claim four new legislative seats in November, adding to the current 34 seats they now hold.

## Politics and people

Primary colors: The defeat of Proposition 45, on March 5, which would have extended term limits, means, of course, that San Francisco state Senator **John Burton** (D) will definitely be leaving his Sacramento job in 2004. The guessing game is already under way as to who and how many candidates there will be among Democrats running to replace him. Some of the names being mentioned early include Mayor **Willie Brown**, **Carole Migden**, former mayors **Art Agnos** and **Frank Jordan**, former Marin Assemblywoman **Kerry**

**Mazzoni**, and attorney **Chris Moscone**. One interesting rumor even has Supervisor **Gavin Newsom** being urged by supporters to forsake the mayor's race and run for Burton's Senate seat instead. I've not spoken with any of the above-mentioned, but would probably bet even money on the following: Mayor Brown won't run; Migden might (but she has a hell of a lot of political fence-mending to do first); Agnos and Jordan would be serious candidates if they ran. Look for a couple of serious — and maybe surprising — candidates to come out of Marin in addition to Mazzoni (Assemblyman **Joe Nation**?), and, yes, I'd definitely keep an eye on young



## Our Man Friday

Moscone, a likable guy with a famous San Francisco political name who happens to live in Marin County.

As for John Burton? Well, he won't run for San Francisco mayor, but will remain president pro tem of the Senate for the next two years — that's when the fun begins in Sacramento to see who replaces him in his powerful state Senate leadership post. Several names are being mentioned already and state Senator **Sheila Kuehl** (D-Santa Monica), the only lesbian in the upper chamber, is said to be already quietly campaigning for the job and is considered an early favorite to replace Burton in that position.

Have you figured out the instant runoff thing (Proposition A) yet? The old system required the two top vote recipients in a multi-candidate race (local races only) to enter a runoff election five weeks later if no one received more than 50 percent of the vote. The new law (Proposition A) that was passed on March 5 requires voters to rank their first, second, and third choices, again, in local races only. If no one gets at least 50 percent, the candidate with the fewest first-place votes is eliminated. All the people who voted for that losing candidate then see their votes recast in favor of their second choice. The lowest-tallying candidate in each round is eliminated, and the process repeats until a majority is won. Depending on how quickly local election officials can install the necessary computer program, the new system could (but not likely) be used as early as this November. It should be emphasized, however, that the system will be applied only to local races and will not apply to statewide, congressional, or legislative contests.

No doubt about it, **Gray Davis's** chief campaign consultant, **Garry South**, has everyone talking about how brilliantly he pulled off the California Republican gubernatorial primary upset by destroying the **Richard Riordan** candidacy in favor of the right wing **Bill Simon**. Even *Newsweek* did a full-page feature on South last week, saying that Riordan, **George W. Bush's** personal choice for the GOP nomination, was little more than "chum in the waters patrolled by Davis's political mastermind, a cheerfully Machiavellian shark named Garry South." South knows that Dubya will try to make amends for backing the wrong guy and will be rais-

ing money for Simon, but South already has the arrows out for the new darling of the California GOP right wing. "Bill Simon is a garden-variety right-winger," South told *Newsweek*, seeming eager to take on his boss's new conservative GOP opponent.

As for Simon — he appears to know that he is in for the fight of a lifetime and is a clear underdog; Simon held a press conference in Sacramento last week in which he got all 44 Republican state legislators to endorse him although most had previously endorsed Riordan, and the White House quickly announced that the president would be traveling to California to stump for Simon next month and would sponsor

at least one fundraiser for their surprising new friend. South and Davis campaign operatives aren't waiting for Bush to visit, however — they've already started focusing on Simon, realizing that the GOP nominee has the same anti-abortion, and anti-gun-control views that helped sink Republican nominee **Dan Lungren** four years ago.

Governor Davis last week appointed **Richard Blum**, the millionaire investment banker husband of Senator **Dianne Feinstein** to a 12-year term on the University of California Board of Regents; the appointment must be confirmed by the state Senate.

Once a few people get a look at recent campaign finance filings, it might mean that we aren't likely to hear too much in the future from those politically correct Democratic Party "reformers" about the dreaded political soft money they love to hate. I mean, it was clear there was tons of that so-called soft money going into the Britt for Assembly campaign, but I was sure surprised to learn that the Carole Migden Leadership Committee had helped fund all those "reformers" in their winning races for seats on the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee. Now let's see, what do we call all that — "reform" or "machine" politics? Perhaps a simple "hypocrisy" will suffice.

A total of seven members of the LGBT community won seats March 5 among the 12 people elected on the Democratic County Committee in the 13th Assembly District. **Connie O'Connor** was the lone member elected from the community in the 12th A.D. Among gay Republicans, two members, **Christopher Bowman** and **G. Michael German** in the 13th A.D. and **Joel Springer** in the 12th. German, incidentally, is the GOP nominee for U.S. Congress against Representative **Nancy Pelosi** in District 8 in November.

So it looks like both Leland Yee and Mark Leno are in for a raise in salary from the \$35,000 (or whatever) supervisorial pay they get when they move on to Sacramento. Assembly members get \$99,000 annually plus perks, but the California Citizens Compensation Commission last week refused proposed pay raises for legislators, the governor, and other statewide officials.

An important meeting: There is a hearing tonight (Thursday, March 21, 7 p.m.) of the Elections Task Force for Redistricting of dis-

next page ►

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# Marriage no place for sex

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

**O**n March 15, a friend of mine became a man.

For many of my friends, this is what they've been striving for all their lives. Not in this case, though: for this friend worked hard to become a woman.

J'Noël Gardiner married a man in 1998. A year later, her husband, Marshall, passed away of a heart attack. He didn't leave a will, so Kansas law stipulates that half his estate go to his widow, and the other half to his heir. This all seems simple.

Marshall's son, Joe Gardiner, contested J'Noël's half of the estate, claiming that — because she is a transsexual — she could not have been legally married to his father. The argument was based in part of Kansas' Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), and a simplistic interpretation on what a man or woman is.

Last week, the Kansas Supreme Court agreed with Joe Gardiner, deciding that no amount of surgery, no change of legal documents — indeed, nothing at all — changes one's legal sex.

Mrs. Gardiner's case, sadly, is not unique. Two years ago, the fate of a Texas woman, Christie Lee Littleton, was sealed by the Texas Court of Appeals. In tossing out a case of medical malpractice put forth by Mrs. Littleton on behalf of her deceased husband, the Texas courts turned a woman into a man, deciding that it was simple genetics that determine a person's legal gender. Never mind the fact that no one ever bothered to see just what sex chromosomes Christie Lee Littleton has in her body.

A third case, in Florida, may make a man into a woman. In this one, the court is deciding the custody of a pair of children in a bitter fight that has even been broadcast on Court TV. Michael Kantares could not only lose the battle, but also his hard-fought right to his own gender.

At the heart of these three marriage-related cases lies the issue of what exactly makes one a man, and what precisely defines a woman. Where all these cases falter is when they set down those definitions without really going deep enough: they are looking for a black and white answer in a world that is made up of a series of grays.

I'm not totally discounting genetics, nor what one's doctor determines upon birth. I think there may be something to all that. Yet, to rely solely on those is to not



consider the whole picture. This tosses out a person's physical appearance, any medical procedures they have undergone, any medical or psychiatric evaluations, and lacks consideration of any legal documents that reflect the person's current gender.

There is a large and growing body of evidence into medical reasons for transsexuality.

While there is still plenty of room for debate into modern transgender care, there are still decades of history into proper treatment of transsexuality — certainly enough for someone to look at.

Further, there are legal precedents — some dating back to at least the 1940s — on the legal standing of transsexuals in the United States of America. Some of these even involved determining exactly who a post-operative transsexual could marry and, yes, go against those recent rulings in Texas and Kansas.

All this is being ignored in favor of simple — and incorrect — determinations of gender.

These simplistic definitions can lead to a very slippery slope: if no amount of paperwork revision or medical technology can legally make a person change from one gender to another, then should the law bar female-to-male transsexuals from men's bathrooms? Perhaps the importance of one's birth gender should make it impossible to revise one's birth certificate or driver's license. It does not take much to envision a place where any rights that have been gained could be wiped away, all courtesy of poorly-considered descriptions of "man" and "woman."

I cannot help but be reminded of an older battle, that of miscegenation, or mixed-race relationships. Such marriages were disallowed by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1883 (*Pace v. Alabama*), and that de-

cision was only overturned in 1967 (*Loving v. Virginia*). This was a time when not only was "sex" on one's driver's license, but so was "race."

As you can expect, there were also some simple determinations as to one's race. Like deciding one's legal sex based solely on birth gender or chromosomes, it was standard to assume that a person was legally African American based solely on 1/8 — or less — of their parentage.

During my lifetime, the issue of miscegenation has become as outdated as the 8-track tape — but it took the overturning of laws based on race to make this moot in all but the most bigoted circles.

Perhaps this is where laws based on gender should go. If it did not matter what gender a person was in order to gain rights in this country, then these definitions become unnecessary.

As an example, consider the issue of same-sex marriage. If these DOMA laws were to go away, then Mrs. Littleton, Mr. Kantares, and Mrs. Gardiner would have had court cases that didn't hinge on the definition of their gender. Christie Lee may have been able to sue a doctor who treated her husband poorly, Michael would get a fair shake in his custody hearing, and J'Noël would be entitled to half her husband's estate. If anything, that is what should be simple, not some ill-conceived scheme to determine their legal sex.

Better still, if there was no need to make a legal definition, then the courts would no longer feel the need to turn men into women, and women into men. That should be the right of the individual, not the function of a judge. ▼

**Gwen Smith is passionate about these issues, being part of a legal same-sex marriage. She can be found on the Web in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo," and at [www.gwensmith.com](http://www.gwensmith.com).**

## Our Man Friday

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strict supervisory boundaries, and tonight's meeting concerns District 8 (currently represented by Mark Leno). The meeting takes place at Everett Middle School, 450 Church Street.

In Topeka, Kansas, a marriage between a man and a transsexual woman is not valid, the Kansas state Supreme Court ruled last week, rejecting a transsexual's claim for part of a \$2.5 million estate. The ruling came in the closely watched case of J'Noël Gardiner, whose right to inherit half of her late husband's estate had been challenged by his son. The sex-change operations took place years before her 1998 marriage to

Marshall Gardiner, who died a year later. His son, Joe, challenged the validity of their marriage after discovering the sex change.

This week marks the 15th anniversary of the FDA's approval of AZT, the first drug okayed to fight the AIDS virus. Dr. Paul Volberding, of the University of California at San Francisco, who was one of the lead investigators in the trials that led to the approval of AZT, said this week that, "Fifteen years ago, AIDS was seen as an inevitable death sentence; today, we expect this to be a chronic disease."

Finally, one of my favorite California political writers, Dick Rosengarten, publisher of the popular *Calpeek* weekly newsletter, this week picked his "Calpeek's Winners & Losers Awards" covering the recent primary. Among

Rosengarten's picks were these notables: Best Overall Campaign: The Gray Davis campaign team for "brilliantly knocking off your toughest opponent in the primary and end up facing an opponent who is at odds with core Californian beliefs"; the Biggest Upset Award: to San Francisco Assemblyman Kevin Shelley for winning the Demo nomination for secretary of state over former Secretary of State March Fong Eu; the Power Players Who Ate It Award: to San Francisco's John Burton for being unable to help his daughter keep her public defender's job, and to San Francisco Assemblywoman Carole Migden for backing Harry Britt for Assembly over her onetime friend and political ally, Mark Leno.

And how was your week? ▼



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Go to dinner, lose a car

by Jane Warner

**S**ullivan's Funeral Home parking lot, March 16, 9:09 p.m.: A woman left her car with the valet service and went to eat dinner. A short time later, the valet noticed a man lingering nearby but didn't think too much about it. The suspicious man suddenly ran into the lot and jumped into the woman's car. Starting the car with keys that had been left on the visor, the suspect revved up the engine. The valet yelled at him to stop, but the thief reached the green Saturn toward the back exit and broke through a heavy metal chain. The valet watched as the suspect — described as a white

male in his 30s, 5 feet inches tall with blond dreadlocks — drove the Saturn down 15th Street.

Police were called to the scene. As the valet was making the stolen vehicle report, the woman returned to the lot and was informed by officers that her car had been stolen.

## Equipment found

Market and Church streets, March 16, 6:29 p.m.: Two officers making a security check of the Church Street Muni station observed an orange jackhammer laying inside an abandoned shopping cart. A few minutes later, a

man approached the cart and started to push it away. Suspicious, the officers detained the man and asked him about the jackhammer.

The man stated that he had no knowledge of where the expensive equipment had come from, only that he had found it laying on the street and thought he could sell it. Officers ran the serial number of the jackhammer but it wasn't listed as stolen. The man was advised, however, that the equipment might be stolen. After being warned of possibly having stolen property, the man readily agreed to release the

jackhammer to officers, who took possession of it for safekeeping and gave the man a property receipt.

## Warrant arrest

100 block of Collingwood, March 11, 5:30 p.m.: While on routine patrol, an officer observed a man behind the Edge bar drinking a pint of bourbon. When asked for identification, the man replied he didn't have any and identified himself verbally as "Joe Buzzo." A search of the man's clothing, however, revealed a California ID card tucked away in his sock which had a different name. When asked about the card, the man said it wasn't his, that he had found the ID card and kept it because it looked so much like him. Suspicious, the officer transported him to Mission Station and ran him through the fingerprint identification system. The check revealed the man was in fact the individual on the ID card and had an outstanding \$25,000 warrant. The 32-year-old suspect was booked for drinking in public, giving false identification to a police officer, and the outstanding warrant.

## Vehicle (and dog) recovered

300 block of Sanchez, March 16, 8:52 p.m.: While on patrol on 18th Street, officers noticed an older Nissan Sentra ahead of them. One of the officers ran the license plate and discovered the car had been reported stolen. The officers radioed for backup and followed the stolen vehicle eastbound on 18th

Street. Several marked patrol cars arrived and the officers effected a traffic stop on the 300 block of Sanchez. The two occupants were taken into custody without incident. After the car was cleared, officers discovered a dog cowering in the back seat. The dog was taken by Animal Care and Control officers. The 28-year-old male driver was booked for auto theft, as was his female passenger, who was also charged with several outstanding warrants and a parole violation.

## Pizzeria disturbance

Marcello's Pizza, 420 Castro, March 14, 3:40 p.m.: A man who has a history of causing disturbances inside the restaurant walked in and refused to leave. When the manager asked him to go, the man approached the front counter and spit at her. As the manager picked up the phone to call police, the man threatened to smash her face with a brick and then threw the brick through the front window. Screaming obscenities, the suspect walked out of the restaurant and crossed the street. Responding officers found him loitering in front of Hot Cookie and took him into custody.

The 56-year-old man was taken to Mission Station, where he was booked for being drunk in public, trespassing, and making threats. Due to his many arrests in the Castro District (21 in the last six months), a copy of the report was forwarded to the district attorney's office requesting a restraining order barring him from the neighborhood. ▼

## Dog maul trial

◀ page 1

of the attorneys representing Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, in Smith's wrongful death civil lawsuit against the couple.

"It's ludicrous in the extreme," said Kendall. "It's inane and Nedra Ruiz is a lunatic for even suggesting such a thing. It's impossible to have a cogent response to an assertion that is completely fanciful and asinine. I don't know what to say about it. It's hard to have an articulate response to an assertion that is so legally inept."

"The best case scenario is that she's just incompetent," Kendall added. "The worst conclusion to draw is that she's hoping she has some homophobes on the jury who will acquit her client simply because Diane was a lesbian. And the next sentence she could say is 'The only good lesbian is a dead lesbian, so Marjorie did everyone a favor,' and quite frankly it wouldn't have surprised me if she had said that."

San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan blasted Ruiz in a brief press conference outside court.

"She's blamed everyone," Hallinan told reporters. "Blamed the victim. Blamed the gay community. Blamed the prosecutor. Blamed the victim's partner. Blamed the police. It may be time she faced up to reality and deal with the fact that it is her client that is on trial for murder in this case."

Ruiz defended her comments when asked about it by reporters outside court after the case went to the jury on Tuesday, March 19.

"There was a drumbeat for prosecution in this case," the defense lawyer said.

"By the gay community?" asked a reporter.

"By the gay community, exactly," answered Ruiz. "They didn't want Diane Whipple's death to be swept under the rug. They didn't want her not to receive justice just because of her sexual orientation."

Asked another reporter: "Much of San Francisco felt that. Why are you singling out the gay community?"

"Because they were the people out there picketing with Sharon Smith," said Ruiz, "that, you know, 'Diane Whipple deserved justice,' and that was translated into political pressure that resulted in an outrageous bail being set on Marjorie and Robert throughout this entire proceeding. They had the onus of being in jail, that gives a definite advantage to the prosecution."

Another reporter interrupted: "So are you bringing it down to the judge bowing to political pressure?"

"Absolutely," Ruiz answered. "Judge Warren caved into political pressure."



Defendant Marjorie Knoller

As he listened to Ruiz's impassioned comments to the press, Hammer told this reporter: "You can see why I didn't bring up the gay question. I didn't want to play into her hands."

When she spoke to the press, Ruiz was fresh from getting a tongue lashing by Superior Court Judge James Warren for rising to her feet and interrupting Hammer during his final closing statement.

"Ms. Ruiz, please take your seat now," said Warren in a very forceful, raised voice. The judge then threatened to send Ruiz to a holding cell if she got out of line again.

Noel's attorney, Bruce Hotchkiss, has not participated in any of the hallway press conferences. During his closing argument on Monday, March 18, he told jurors that the witnesses who testified about past run-ins with the couple's dogs were not lying. Rather, he said, they were filtering their recollections of what happened through "the filter of January 26" and through the filter of the overwhelming negative publicity against the couple.

After Ruiz finished her session with reporters, Knoller's mother took to the podium to take her own turn to lash out at the gay community.

"As I left the bathroom yesterday," Harriet Knoller said, "I came out of the stall and one of Ms. Smith's friends was waiting for me and angry, she said, 'With a mother like you, what do you expect from a daughter like Marjorie? We're going to throw the book at her.'"

"What the heck have I got to do with it? Does she know what kind of mother I am? Why would anyone say that to me? ... Then you say it isn't the gays? Why would she say that to me?"

When asked by the B.A.R. why she thought the woman she encountered in the bathroom was gay, Knoller responded: "I know it because she was sitting in the front with all three of them, that's how I know, and somebody told me she was."

"Do you have something

against gays?" asked another reporter.

"I have nothing against gays but I don't like people talking to me period, not that way," said Mrs. Knoller. "Evidently, they have something against us."

Smith briefly spoke with reporters to praise the prosecution. Her attorney, Michael Cardoza, said Smith wouldn't be taking questions until after the verdict came back.

When asked about the gay issues raised by Ruiz and Harriet Knoller, Cardoza said he found it "truly offensive."

The heated press conference was held mid-morning, just after the jury went into deliberations. By press time early Wednesday afternoon, they were still out. ▼

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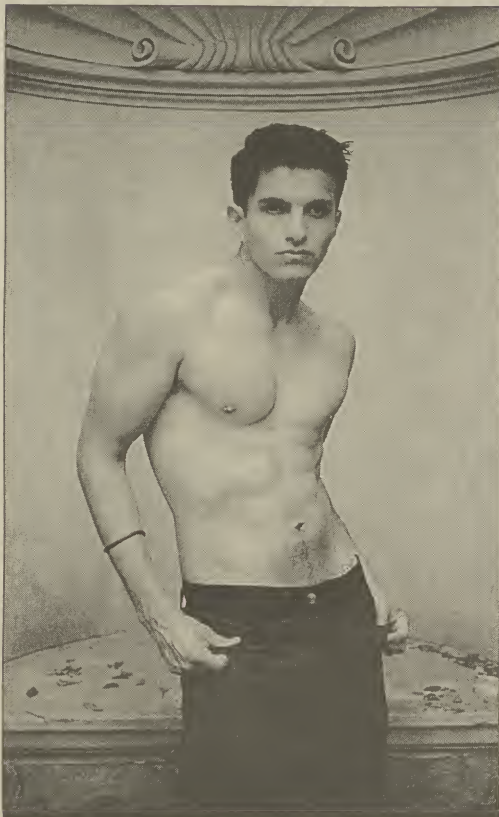
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# LA's 'Queen of Mean' sits with B.A.R.



Love him or hate him, *fab!* columnist Paulo Murillo always has something to say.

by Ed Walsh

**P**aulo Murillo may be the most hated gay man in Southern California.

He routinely gets dirty looks when he goes into clubs in West Hollywood, where he lives. On one venture into a popular WeHo bar, he got ice thrown at him.

Murillo writes the very politically incorrect column "Love ya, mean it" in the biweekly Los Angeles-based gay newspaper, *fab!* The paper is routinely deluged with letters and e-mails reacting to his column, many positive, many negative, and some downright threatening. One reader suggested he was the Andrew Dice Clay of gay men. A combination of Andrew Dice Clay and Andrew Sullivan may be a more apt description.

*Fab!*'s gay Pride issue last June explored the "Paulo effect" in a cover story entitled "Hating Paulo." As that issue detailed, people both passionately love him and equally as passionately hate him, but even those who despise him seem to read his social/sexual exploits and commentary faithfully every week.

The controversial columnist is currently embroiled in a knock-down-drag-out fight with the adult entertainment industry. Last month, he wrote about ditching porn star Matt Summers after the performer made advances on him in a West Hollywood bar. Murillo said he was attracted to the man until Sum-

mers went out of his way to tell him about his porn stardom.

"He suddenly transformed into a trashy cock-sucking porn whore with a huge gaping bung-hole for the world to see. ... In my mind's eye there stood a nasty, corroded, freshly fucked, bang-for-the-buck sleaze-bucket and I was not pleased.

"I don't give a damned if you call it art, modeling, or acting. You're fucking for money, plain and simple. Where I come from (planet earth) that's considered prostitution. Yeah, these guys are screwing hot studs on screen, BUT what we don't get to see is the nasty, dirty old men and overweight loony-toony drag queens that they have to pig-pork to get in front of that camera (you know who you are). This has to do some serious damage to your soul.

"I'm sure Mr. Summers is a very sweet guy. I'm hardly one to judge (Lord knows most bitches package me as total trash because of a certain column...) - Sweetness or not, when he excused himself to the restroom, [my friend] and I made a graceful stride for the door."

That column, entitled "Nine Inches of Separation," was printed in the paper's February 1 edition and the fallout has continued through this month.

"The next time Paulo decides to get a stick up his ass and tell everyone that a prince (or in his case, princess) does not belong with a pauper, will someone PLEASE do us a favor and ram that stick just a little farther up until it snaps his mouth shut!?" wrote West Hollywood reader Keith Parisot in a letter to the editor.

"I can't tell you how irritated I was," penned Richard Mailman of L.A. "That's nothing new. I've read a handful of his pieces, and with each one put it down scratching my head wondering if even he knows what he's talking about. Not only does almost everything he write contradict itself, but most of it is nasty, ill informed, and really shows a lack of intelligence on his part."

Charles Sommerstein of L.A. got right to the point: "I don't say this about many people, but I cannot stand that disgusting gutter rat."

Murillo said that column was unusual because almost all the reaction was negative.

"I get worried when they're nothing but hate," he explained, "but also when there's nothing but love."

For every passionate piece of hate mail, there seems to be equally passionate praise.

"No one else I read writes with as much life spirit as Paulo Murillo," wrote L.A. reader Rick Asocoli. "He blends humor with pain and truth with illusion. Isn't that what all great writers do?"

"He is perhaps the single most entertaining writer on the planet," penned Robert Rosenkrantz in a letter to the editor from his

prison cell in San Luis Obispo.

"As a 27-year-old queer activist in the Midwest, I have to say that Paulo Murillo's column is a breath of fresh air and a wonderful departure from the static, self-aggrandizing political correctness of many in the queer community. It's real, it's raw, it's what everyone wants to say but is afraid to say," wrote Dennis Kempton from Duluth, Minnesota.

Murillo sat down with the *Bay Area Reporter* for an interview last month in West Hollywood in the midst of his battle with "the porn people," his term for porn stars. In sharp contrast to his acid-tongue persona, Murillo is disarmingly nice in person.

"Some people are disappointed when they meet me," he said. "Other people are totally surprised. When people meet me, they are expecting some short little Latin queen snapping her fingers, walking into a club, ripping his shirt off with a whole entourage behind him. Like snap, snap, snap, like the queen bee."

Murillo said he probably got the most reaction when he wrote about looking for a roommate to share his West Hollywood apartment. He wrote that he rejected one potential roomie because the man had AIDS. He also wrote that he turned down a fellow Latino because the man could barely speak English and was being supported by a sugar daddy.

His comment about not wanting to share his apartment with someone with AIDS drew a deluge of negative mail.

"What people didn't get is that I didn't know the person," Murillo explained. "It's different if it's someone that you know or love who happens to get sick. You're not going to do that to a person that you care about. But when it's a stranger, why would you welcome that?"

## Turned down for cover

Murillo started writing the column three years ago, when *fab!* was more of a club guide than the tabloid newspaper it is now. He wanted to be a cover model but editor Mark Ariel kept turning him down. Finally, he wrote a column about the problem of drug abuse in the L.A. gay community, using his own bad experience with drugs as an example. Ariel was impressed and Murillo has been writing for the paper ever since.

Drugs are one of the recurring themes in Murillo's columns.

"It's a hard-core problem that we have in the gay community. It's not the pretty picture that we try to put out there but it is the real picture. I did drugs. I was all into the party scene and I know what it does, especially to gay people."

Murillo doesn't spare himself from his no-holds-barred writing.

He wrote about having unsafe sex during a down time in his life and later getting tested for HIV. He told readers about punching out his verbally abusive boyfriend

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and the regret he had about being violent. He's written about a less than amicable breakup with a boyfriend. He was criticized for being too soft after he wrote about being sad after saying goodbye to a tourist from Boston with whom he had a quick fling. He wrote pensively about his friend's young son who appeared to be gay, recalling that as a child he was forced out on the street in a dress by his mother as punishment after she caught him trying on women's clothes.

Murillo once got a letter from a facilitator of a gay youth group who said a lot of young people are faithful readers of his column because they can identify so closely with his struggles and they appreciate his honesty.

#### Writing as therapy

Murillo often writes about his friends. Most take it in stride, but his close friend Fernando, whom he refers to as Whoreando, once didn't talk to him for a week after he referred to him as a cosmic cow. That was in a column about a study that said that a gene may cause people to be overweight. Murillo suggested that too much nurture, rather than nature, was responsible for Whoreando and others being fat.

Murillo said he writes for himself and never thinks of the reader.

"What people don't realize is that it's therapy for me," he explained. "It's kind of a release. To write about my foreskin or something embarrassing like that, I literally cringe, but it's like I can't help it, I have to write about it. A lot of times I write about stuff that does not paint me in the best light, and [I say to myself] 'I'm going to be dateless and fuckless for two weeks.'"

"People say I'm mean but at least I cause conversation. I cause people to talk about certain issues. Sometimes you have to smack people upside the head. The only thing I do differently is that I use myself as an example.

"People always ask me about hate, I don't see it as hate. I see it as being misunderstood. People that hate me don't get me. They don't see the irony. They don't see the sarcasm. They don't see the self-deprecation. They only hear the bad words. They only pick out the bad paragraphs or whatever."

Murillo travels on occasion and writes about his exploits and impressions of the gay scenes outside of Los Angeles. He wrote about San Francisco and the let-it-all-hang-out attitude that is less prevalent in West Hollywood.

"I find that the gay community in San Francisco is a lot friendlier, definitely," he explained. "I think it's an older gay community. When people talk to you, they're not trying to pick up on you. They are just being friendly. Here people don't really approach you very much and if they do it's because they want something. There's definitely a more standoffish attitude in Los Angeles."

"There's a lot of label queens here. It's La La land. People are a lot more self-conscious and looks-conscious."

#### On the edge

Attacking the L.A. attitude queens almost got Murillo sued. He wrote about a wealthy man who invited a lot of young men to his house for an after-hours party that eventually evolved into an orgy.

"He was a total prick, throwing everyone out. The ones that weren't attractive were thrown out and the way he did it I thought was very rude. I thought,

what an asshole! And the whole orgy thing, I didn't want to do anything with anyone and he wasn't very happy with that."

When he excused himself to leave and made his way to the door, Murillo could see in a reflection that the man mockingly put his finger down his throat and "made a prissy face like I was prissy because I wouldn't get down with all the other drugged up boys."

Murillo suspects that the man never followed through with his threat to sue out of concern that legal action would draw attention to his culpability for supplying drugs to his guests, something Murillo generously, or wisely, left out of his story.

Murillo got blasted when he took on another sacred cow in LA: the circuit party.

"Regarding your latest tirade, this time on the recent amazing White Party weekend: You my friend," wrote West Hollywood's Howard Phillips, "could take the Second Coming of Christ and turn it into a miserable event — you bitchy, miserable excuse of a human being! Has *fab!* no better use for their valuable editorial space or are you blowing one of the editors?"

Besides obvious legal concerns, one area is off-limits. Although he grew up in a black and Latino neighborhood in L.A., he said the one group he's not allowed to poke fun at is African Americans.

"The editor draws a line at racism or anything that might appear racist toward African Americans," he explained. "I can pretty much talk about fat people, about skinny people, Latin people, and white people but for some reason [writing about black people] is sensitive."

At the beginning of his interview with the B.A.R., Murillo bought this reporter a cup of coffee at Starbucks on Santa Monica Boulevard, WeHo's unofficial gay gathering center.

When asked if he wanted cream with his coffee, perhaps venting his one taboo, Murillo said: "I like my coffee like I like my men, black and bitter."

"Just kidding," he quickly added. ▽

**Full disclosure: Ed Walsh is an occasional contributing writer for a number of GLBT publications around the country, including *fab!***



Paulo Murillo said that younger readers often appreciate his honesty.

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# 9th Retroviral conference: HIV vaccine development

by Bob Roehr

**A**IDS vaccines played an increasing role at the 9th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in Seattle at the end of February. The good news is that more researchers are conducting more studies both in the lab and in humans than ever before. The bad news is that they still don't know for sure exactly what they are looking for.

There are partisans for each of the body's two main pathways of immune protection — neutralizing antibodies and cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTLs), the familiar T-cells — but most researchers have come to the conclusion that a mix of both approaches will be required to develop significant protection.

And that protection likely will not prevent infection but will allow the immune system to control HIV infection so as to cause

no health problems. Monkeys are able to do this with the simian version of HIV, and humans often are able to control other infections such as the herpes virus and the human papilloma viruses that causes warts and cervical cancer.

The conference offered further clues from the lab and in animals as to what correlates of protection — those combinations of T-cells, antibodies, and other factors — may or may not be. But humans very well may differ, and evidence from them remains scant.

A disappointment, but not a surprise, was the February 24 decision not to proceed any further with development of ALVAC, the vaccine in the most advanced stage of development. The vaccine had been tried in hundreds of volunteers in the U.S. and Thailand in early Phase I and Phase II trials. It was designed to increase levels of CD8 T-cells.

ALVAC proved to be safe and it did seem to increase the number of CD8 cells. However, "The re-

sponse did not meet the stringent standards" that have been set to move forward into a very large Phase III trial necessary to prove its effectiveness, said Dr. Larry Corey.

Corey is a principal investigator with the HIV Vaccine Trials Network, an international collaboration supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

HTVN is continuing other studies of ALVAC in Thailand, South America, and the Caribbean. Those studies use different doses of the vaccine and combine them with other products to try to stimulate a stronger immune response. Corey called it part of the slow process of learning how to make an effective HIV vaccine rather than development of a final product.

Chris Collins, executive director of the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition was "very disappointed that the immunology results did not meet the criteria to move ahead with a correlates trial."

He renewed a call to continue research and building the infrastructure necessary to conduct large-scale clinical trials of vaccines in resource poor countries where the epidemic is hitting hardest.

The Pentagon had provided one part of that effort through the Walter Reed Army Institute for

Research. A February 25 news release made official what had been written weeks ago by this reporter — the military's \$25 million HIV vaccine program will be transferred to NIAID.

The Office of Management and Budget claimed efficiency and better coordination of efforts as the reasons for ordering the change. Collins said, "The military research team deserves to retain its scientific and operational independence." A team is negotiating the transition that will take place in October.

Jon Cohen is optimistic that this move will work to the advantage of the military researchers. The AIDS reporter last year wrote the book *Shots in the Dark*, which recounted nearly two decades of trying to develop an HIV vaccine.

He pointed out that the Pentagon periodically had tried to eliminate the program, while the relatively new head of NIAID's Division of AIDS is Edward Tramont, who established the WRAIR HIV vaccine research program when he served in the military.

## Merck vaccine

The pharmaceutical giant Merck is developing what is now regarded as the leading vaccine candidate. Earlier work in the lab and in monkeys generated a buzz in the trade and mainstream press, in part because it was the first significant commitment to HIV vaccine research by a major pharmaceutical company.

Vaccines traditionally are a low profit area for the drug industry. They also carry long term questions of liability that add further to risk and uncertainty.

Dr. Emilio Emini heads up HIV vaccine development for Merck. He said their effort includes a "naked" DNA vaccine and second product designed to boost immune response. The booster is a version of adenovirus, the fami-

ly that includes the common cold virus, modified by inserting some of the genes from HIV into the adenovirus DNA. That product is then injected into the subject, first monkeys and now humans.

Merck is moving forward with a series of small trials in humans, trying different combinations of vaccines, different doses, different adjuvants (biochemical boosters), and different timings of these components, to see which stimulates the greatest immune responses in humans. Each is being tested separately and will then be tested in myriad combination.

Emini said that Phase I trials for safety, tolerability, and immunogenicity will take more than a year and involve about 600 people. The results of those trials will shape the direction of the next series of trials.

He presented the first data from the initial human trial using the "naked" DNA in healthy subjects. The vaccine was safe and it did stimulate significant levels of the CD8 and CD4 cells in humans.

"I take comfort from the data" Emini said, because researchers are seeing the same type of immune response in humans that they saw in monkeys. Whether that will protect humans from HIV remains to be answered.

"You have to judge it as you go along," he said. "There is a Catch-22" of when to essentially freeze basic research and move it into a broader, more expensive, and more time consuming Phase III trial that is necessary to prove efficacy. That is probably still several years away.

"Merck's vaccine is by far the most promising looking approach that's out there and in human trials already," said Richard Jefferys. He follows those issues for the Treatment Action Group, an HIV research think tank and advocacy group. ▼

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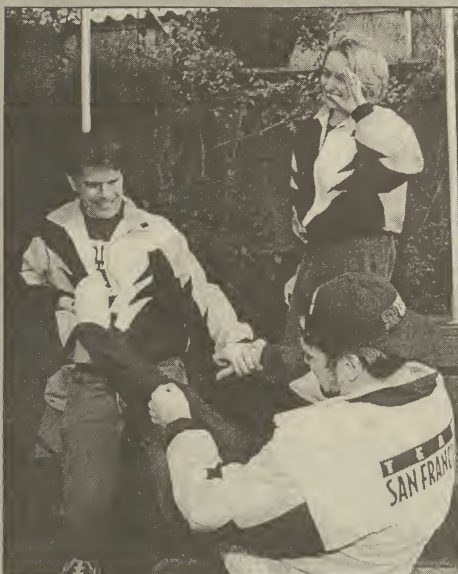
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## Ready for Sydney



**T**eam SF athletes gathered March 16 at the Pilsner Inn to try on uniforms they will wear at the Gay Games in Sydney, Australia later this year. Chole Arnold watched as Jim Oakley, right, tugged at the pants of Ross Hayduk, all in fun, of course.



# U.S. military's 'war' on gays continues

by Bob Roehr

The number of gays and lesbians discharged last year from the military under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" marks the highest percentage in more than a decade, according to a report issued last week.

"We are at war. At a time when we need our forces to be their strongest, 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue, Don't Harass' continues to undermine our national security," began the report entitled "Conduct Unbecoming" released by the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. It is the organization's eighth annual assessment of the anti-gay military personnel policy, and was issued March 14.

"It has never been more obvious than in the weeks and months following September 11th that this policy weakens our military, deteriorates our readiness, and undermines the morale and cohesion of our troops," the report added.

The casualties number 1,250 men and women discharged from military services for being gay or lesbian, during the fiscal year that ended last September. The gross number is higher than at any time since 1987, said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of SLDN. And if one takes into account the shrinking size of the military, it is the highest percentage of dis-



SLDN's Dixon Osburn

charges since 1982.

The data is essentially from the pre-September 11 era, but Osburn said, "The calls [from service members seeking help] have not abated" over the last six months. Harassment continues "in epic proportions," with SLDN documenting more than a thousand such incidents during that period. "Everything appears to be business as usual, even with war."

He noted, "The types of mass witch-hunts that characterized the policy prior to 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' are not occurring with the same frequency today. That is one of the benefits of the current policy."

Fort Campbell, Kentucky,

where Private First Class Barry Winchell was murdered in 1999 in a fit of anti-gay rage, accounted for 222 of the Army's 616 gay discharges. Army spokesman Colonel Tom Begines tried to spin the Fort Campbell discharges "as preventative rather than punitive."

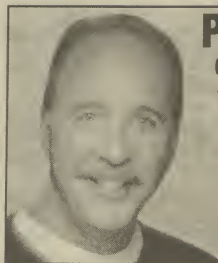
But the essence of his statement was that the Army could not protect gays and lesbians from harassment within its own ranks, so they were discharged for their own safety. Observers noted that the military would not admit to so little control of its members in any other area of operations.

Osburn said the level of discharges at Fort Campbell has declined from a peak of about 30 a month to three to four per month. Part of that may simply be because most gay service members at the base have already departed. Then too, part of the unit has been deployed to Afghanistan. Osburn did credit the new base commander for making the DADT policy more clear to all soldiers.

Women continue to be disproportionately singled out under DADT. While they constitute 14 percent of total manpower, they represent 30 percent of all gay discharges.

SLDN fears that the number of gay discharges has been masked by attributing them to other reasons and not DADT. It pointed to suspiciously low numbers from

next page ►



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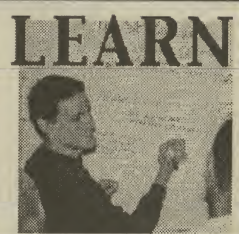
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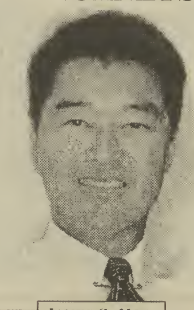
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# Looking for 'Mr. Right' is not easy

by Cesar Z.

I recently came out of the closet and the gay community is different than what I thought it would be; everyone wants Mr. Right but instead they settle for Mr. Right-Now.

Just about everyone I have talked to wants a long-term relationship but it seems that most guys are used to the old way of being, they just date-to-fuck. What happened to love and waiting for Mr. Right to arrive at your heart, or even just waiting at least until you know the person for more than a couple of hours before you have sex with him?

I know this might sound very Christian-heterosexual like, but love and waiting for that person that gives you butterflies in your stomach, and makes your heart stop every time you see him. That feeling should not be just for some, but for all to enjoy.

I must admit that it is difficult because sex is on everyone's mind. Every time I am out with a guy it is obvious that all he wants is to have sex. Sure, sex is in my mind also, and after all, like one of my friends said, you can't have a relationship without having sex. But I say that going out on a date should be to get to know the person better, and then if you still like the person then you have sex. Not have sex then find out who you just had sex with.

Another of the reasons I don't have sex with just anyone is because I am worried about getting HIV or some other sexually transmitted disease. It seems like everyone has had sex with everyone else. You did it to him, who did it

to that guy, who had sex with that other guy who you had sex with last week. Sex partners come around and on the second round they can be carrying some disease.

Sometimes I think that our community revolves around just a few words; sex, blow job, top, bottom, rimming, S&M ... AIDS. In a way it is sad because it took me a lot of tears and pain to

come out of the closet just to find myself in a world where I am seen as an object of a good time. As I walk down the street, men stop, look, and say things to me, like: "I

want some of that," or "Let me be your daddy," or the funniest incident was when a street person said to me, "You have a nice ass," while he was telling everyone else, "Have a nice day." Most of the time when people tell me things like this I just laugh, but sometimes I get mad.

I must admit I flirt with guys also. Sometimes I go up to them and ask them for their number. Then we go out and I get to know the person better and decide if we could be more than friends.

I know that you must be sexu-

ally attracted to someone in order to even get a chance to see what is in each other's hearts. But, after I go past their looks and into their hearts I decide who would be a better candidate to become my Mr. Right.

I just turned 21 and I still have not found Mr. Right; I thought I had, but it was sex he wanted, not love. For now I will keep looking for my other half. I know he is out there somewhere, and hopefully we will find each other soon. Love is forever but the sooner we can find each other and share it, the better. ▼

To find out about writing a

future "Generation Q" column, which appears in conjunction with the *Bay Area Reporter* and LYRIC, please e-mail Ned the red@yahoo.com. All lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, intersex, queer, and questioning people age 25 and under are welcome to join the group of writers. No experience is required. All that is required is a different experience and the will to tell it. Because of the age of some of the writers or the fact that they may not be out to their families or face other circumstances, the authors of this column may only be identified by their first names.



Generation Q

## Deadline for queer student scholarships nears

by Matthew S. Bajko

Students at three Bay Area schools have less than a month to apply for a special scholarship fund earmarked for lesbians and gay men. The awards total \$1,250 each and are for the 2002-2003 academic year.

Upper division undergraduates and graduate students at San Francisco State University, Stanford University, and the University of California at Berkeley are eligible for the Markowski-Leach Scholarship program. Students do not need to be enrolled in gay or lesbian related fields to be eligible.

Students are selected based on their likelihood to "make a substantial contribution to society, thereby enhancing society's perception of gay and lesbian people, as well as in-

creasing the gay and lesbian community's self-esteem," according to the scholarship's guidelines.

Named after Jim Leach and Tom Markowski, the scholarship fund is the first of its kind in the country for lesbian and gay students enrolled in

a university and not following a specified course of study. Administered through the Horizons Foundation, the program first awarded scholarships in 1991 for the 1992-93 academic year. Since then more than 100 awards have been granted.

The required application is available on the SFSU Web site, at the financial aid offices at Stanford and UC Berkeley, or by e-mail at [MLScholar@netbox.com](mailto:MLScholar@netbox.com). Applications must be received by Friday, April 19. ▼

## Saturday conference to address AIDS policy

by Katie Szymanski

If you've become increasingly concerned about cuts in AIDS funding, federal witch-hunts against AIDS nonprofits, and the emphasis on abstinence over real-life HIV prevention methods, you're not alone, and the time to act is now, according to local and national advocates alike.

"Making Room at the Table: Keeping HIV/AIDS on the Priority List" is a one-day conference on the future of HIV/AIDS advocacy in California and across the na-

tion, to be held this Saturday, March 23 at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. The event runs from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will focus on the Bush administration's track record on HIV/AIDS, as well as major policy challenges at the federal, state, and local levels. Attendees will discuss specific ways that they can help to address these challenges, according to conference organizers, through a series of workshops and presentations designed to facilitate community input.

The conference is sponsored by the HIV Advocacy Network, a

grassroots community-organizing program of SFAF that strives to organize HIV service providers, AIDS advocates and persons living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in Northern California to promote legislative action and public policies that respond to the epidemic.

Saturday's conference takes place at 995 Market Street, 2nd floor, at Sixth Street. The event is free of charge, but space is limited, so call (415) 487-3080 to reserve a spot. For more information, visit [www.sfaf.org/policy/han\\_conference.html](http://www.sfaf.org/policy/han_conference.html). ▼

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## Rosie O'Donnell

◀ page 1

tional Center for Lesbian Rights, told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Kendell said there was one moment of despair when O'Donnell, in response to a question, said she hoped her three kids — Parker, 6, Chelsea, 4, and Blake, 2 — grow up straight. Kendell said she tried to prepare her partner, Sandy, for what she thought was coming.

"My only cringe ... was when Rosie said, 'Yes,' she hoped her kids would be straight. That is to be expected, but nevertheless an ill-fated response," Kendell said. "The plain fact is that it is society that suffers in ignorance and intolerance, wedded to gender stereotypes and the primacy of heterosex-

ism. To suggest that our kids would be better off to be straight concedes that the messed up state of the country on lesbian and gay issues warrants that we, too, insist on hetero conformity in order for our kids to be safe and free from attack."

Kendell added, "While race and ethnicity differ in important respects from sexual orientation, it is worth noting that one cannot imagine an African American or Jewish parent asserting that they hope their kid would grow up white or Christian just to be free from racism and anti-Semitism."

"Now that Rosie is truly out, I have no doubt that with time, she will come to regret the pandering to homophobia her remark played into," Kendell said.

Charlie Spiegel, executive director of Our Family Coalition,

praised O'Donnell's coming out and putting a recognizable face on gay and lesbian parents.

"I think Rosie O'Donnell is our answer to Anita Bryant," Spiegel said. "Thirty years ago, Anita caused havoc in Florida for LGBT people. Rosie is Florida and America's most forceful media answer, putting a recognizable face to families headed by LGBT parents. It has and will continue to change minds across the country."

Spiegel added, however, that O'Donnell isn't the only out parent fighting for equal rights.

"This is the same kind of activism that our local LGBT families do quietly each day in places like their own schools, playgrounds, and churches. We do it one by one, Rosie did it via broadcast television." ▼

## Military on gays

◀ previous page

the Marine base at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and Lackland Air Force Base, that service's major training facility. SLDN has unconfirmed reports that service members have been separated under other codings and has called for an investigation.

This year's annual report on DADT represents a shift in tone for SLDN. "Stage one was to get people to recognize that the policy was not the benign compromise sold to us back in 1993," said Osburn. "We are now trying to start the dialogue that we have to repeal this policy

... no amount of tweaking at the edges is going to make substantial improvements. We just need to get rid of this policy."

He believes there is a growing feeling within the military that this is "a bad policy and a waste of their time, that they would prefer would just go away." The policy "is not on the Bush administration's radar screen at all," while Congress "has not exercised its oversight responsibilities."

Osburn hopes that with Democratic control of the Senate, Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin (D-Michigan) "might be willing to start looking at this policy again." However, SLDN has not yet had that

conversation with Levin.

Osburn believes that it will take 10 years to repeal the policy.

In a March 18 editorial, the *Washington Post* called the continued anti-gay harassment "shameful." It added, the policy "represents an enormous waste of human resources" in terms of the investment in recruiting and training and "it discourages enlistment by many well-qualified Americans."

The newspaper concluded: "Congress and the Bush administration need to reexamine this flawed policy. And as long as it remains in place, the military needs to take seriously its duty to avoid witch-hunts and keep people in uniform." ▼



## OBITUARIES

## Gov. Davis

◀ page 1

tween now and 2003 to make sure that the state and the people of California believe no one should be discriminated against."

"That has to be an extremely welcome step," added Alan LoFaso, Assemblywoman Carole Migden's (D-San Francisco) chief of staff. "That level of leadership from a high official undoubtedly would push civil unions forward."

Public opinion polls show a majority of the state's citizens support civil unions. Supporters of gay rights said the governor's committee will only help to improve that support and elevate the issue amongst legislators in Sacramento.

"If what the governor is doing will lead to more protections, whether in the form of more rights and responsibilities for domestic partners or civil unions or same-gender marriage, the label doesn't matter so much to us but the forward progress matters a lot," said Charlie Spiegel, executive director of Our Family Coalition.

Two other states are currently addressing the issue of civil unions. In Connecticut, a civil union bill was introduced in the state Legislature, and in Massachusetts, several same-sex couples have filed a lawsuit against the state for denying them the right to marry.

Davis's decision to establish the staff working group stems in part from his meeting Vermont Governor Howard Dean at a California Alliance for Pride and Equality event in February. After hearing Dean discuss how Vermont passed its historic law, which took effect July 1, 2000, Davis decided to review how California may be able to adopt the same policy.

"We don't know quite yet how this would work in California. Koretz took Vermont's law and essentially tried to make it California law. Some more thought needs to go into it," said Eric C. Bauman, special assistant to Davis.

The formation of the staff working group will be the first of its kind in California, according to CAPE spokesman Eric Astacaan. He said CAPE is looking forward

to working with the governor through the new committee.

"That is wonderful. It would be unprecedented," said Astacaan. "I think it is high time and it will be very good for the governor to have that kind of committee formed and give him the information to address the very many difficulties our community faces."

Bauman, who is openly gay, defended the governor's decision to review the issue as politically prudent. He said if Koretz had been able to move his bill forward, conservatives and the Christian right would have fought for it to be repealed.

"You know, if that civil unions piece passed, and he signed it tomorrow, I would bet you my last dollar that a referendum would be passed in two weeks. They would be out on the streets collecting signatures," said Bauman. "Our sometimes slow process of adding these benefits has benefited us all because nobody's challenged it."

"And it has given us an opportunity to show the rest of the world that doesn't know gays and lesbians that in fact they do deserve equality," he added.

No deadline has been set for the working group to make its recommendations, and Davis said he will remain neutral on the topic until he sees the group's report on the issue.

"I have not expressed a viewpoint on the issue of civil unions," said Davis, who is running for reelection this year against Republican rival Bill Simon. "I want to wait for the recommendations from the people who will study Vermont's law and what, if any, portions of that law can be implemented in California."

Davis has taken contradictory stands on the issue of gay marriage. During the 1998 primary race, Davis stated he "believed marriage should only be between a man and a woman."

"My position on marriage stems from my religion, I am a practicing Catholic," he explained this week.

Yet Davis opposed the Knight initiative, the proposition voters passed in March 2000 which defined marriage as solely between a

man and woman. Davis told the B.A.R. his seemingly opposing viewpoints stem from his belief in both the Roman Catholic Church and in the Constitution's separation of church and state.

"You separate the issues," he said. "I do believe that government has an obligation to right wrongs and I have long gravitated to people who have, in my judgment, been mistreated by government."

Simon, a conservative businessman, has stated he opposes any legislation supporting gay rights. In response to a reporter's question after he won the GOP primary earlier this month, Simon said he would have vetoed AB25, the domestic partner bill Davis signed into law last year.

"I don't think it's appropriate for the government to enter into legislation that has to do with sexual orientation," Simon was quoted as saying.

Simon also signed a "Marriage Protection Pledge" vowing not to support any civil union or gay marriage laws. That pledge states in part, "I will protect the importance and uniqueness of marriage by reserving spousal or spousal-type rights only for legal marriage between a man and a woman. I believe that awarding spousal-equivalent rights to non-married couples cheapens the value of marriage."

In addition, the document states, "I recognize that the various 'domestic partnership' and 'civil union' benefits either belong exclusively to marriage or can be obtained by responsible people through inexpensive legal contracts and other private arrangements."

Simon's campaign did not return calls seeking comment for this story.

While it remains to be seen if the issue of civil unions and the formation of the working group hurts or helps Davis in the November election, both LoFaso and Svonkin said it is critical the gay community supports the governor.

"This is a tremendous step and we just need to make sure the governor is there to implement it. If we have a different governor, then all the progress we have made in California will slip away," said Svonkin. ▼

David Mercer Baker, Jr.  
Feb. 18, 1947 — Feb. 20, 2002

The Eternal Omnipresent One, masquerading as David Baker, in the Comedy-Drama known as Time and Space, ended his incarnation on February 20, with a heart attack due to complications from diabetes, two days after his 55th birthday.

David, a.k.a. Beautiful Dove, Saleem, was an Ivy League nurse, Radical Faerie, Sufi, and student of A Course in Miracles as well as life.

He is most famous for his theatrical talents, expressed with The Angels of Light, Gay Men's Theater Collective, and his roommate and soulmate the fabulous Divine, among others.

He is remembered for his outra-

geousness, generosity, wicked sense of humor, perversity, knitting socks and being a great friend, as well as a healing rainbow brother.

A memorial in celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, March 30, between 2 and 5 p.m., at the GLBT Community Center at 1800 Market St. See you there David.

## OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. We reserve the right to edit. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

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## State DP laws

◀ page 1

Jeffrey Collman, who was a flight attendant on American Airlines Flight 11, which crashed into the World Trade Center.

(Another gay couple from Southern California, Daniel Brandhorst and Ronald Gamboa, died along with their 3-year-old son, David Brandhorst, on United Airlines Flight 175, which also crashed into the World Trade Center. San Franciscan Mark Bingham died aboard United Flight 93 that crashed in a Pennsylvania field.)

In California, the state's domestic partnership laws cover wrongful death but not inheritance. Assemblyman Fred Keeley (D-Boulder Creek) recently introduced AB2216 to include inheritance laws for domestic partners.

"We do not have intestate succession, the component of law which says in the absence of a will, the person is treated like a spouse," explained Bauman, who is gay and has been in a committed relationship for nearly 20 years.

While the federal regulations covering the fund do not expressly deny compensation to same-sex survivors, the rules do not automatically include them either. And by stating he will defer to state laws, Feinberg has given himself latitude in either approving or denying

claims made by domestic partners.

"Same-sex partners are not able to go to bed at night knowing if they will have compensation at the end of the day. And they are at Feinberg's mercy," said Jennifer Middleton, a staff attorney with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Lambda is assisting 23 same-sex survivors in filing claims with the special master. To date, those claims have yet to be filed.

"We are in the process of submitting claims. It remains to be seen what Feinberg will do," said Middleton. "We just don't know. We are optimistic he wants to do the right thing."

No matter which state they live in, those couples who made out wills or registered as domestic partners have an advantage in defending their claims, said Middleton. Otherwise, the laws vary from state to state for the survivors.

"If the couple has a civil union from Vermont, they should be covered," said Middleton. "Hawaii's law covers reciprocal beneficiaries for inheritance but not wrongful deaths."

Survivors living in New York state also are not automatically covered by the federal fund, as previously reported. The executive order New York's Governor George Pataki signed only covers a state program and does not use the terms same-sex or domestic partner.

The order simply removed a

clause from the state's violent crime compensation rules that required survivors prove their partner had provided them with 75 percent of their income in order to be compensated.

"After 9/11 the governor signed an executive order removing that requirement. You have to now prove 'interdependent support' in the relationship," stated Joe Tarver, a spokesman for the Empire State Pride Agenda. "Some same-sex survivors will receive distributions from the federal fund not because they are same-sex partners but because they are the beneficiary of the estate."

Feinberg will be under pressure from lawmakers, gay rights advocates, and the families of the victims to not further victimize those who have lost loved ones.

As openly gay Massachusetts Representative Barney Frank (D) said in a statement this week, "...I am very disappointed with the results to date. But I note that the special master has pointed out that he retains the final authority to make decisions case by case, and he has asserted that he will take equity into account in making these final decisions. It is only when each of these cases is resolved that we will know whether or not gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered Americans will be treated as second-class citizens by their own government even at the time of their greatest grief." ▼



# Hobbitual

by Jim Provenzano

A BBC investigation raised the possibility that there was a secret CIA project to investigate methods of sending anthrax through the mail that went madly out of control.

So, the anthrax scare was as homegrown as a pot plant under grow lights.

But who's getting busted by the increasingly fascistic DEA? Not disgruntled right-wing govern-

ment lab employees with access to anthrax. After all, they're patriots! It's herb-happy hippies who support "terrah," according to the PSAs doled out by the Ministry of Disinformation.

(P)resident Bush told college sports champions last week that the September 11 attackers must have gotten an idea of the United States as a weak nation from watching *The Jerry Springer Show*.

Bush was speaking at a White House event celebrating national championships won by seven NCAA teams.

"They didn't think we were a nation that could conceivably sacrifice for something greater than our self, that we were soft, that we were so self-absorbed and so materialistic that we wouldn't defend anything we believed in. They just were reading the wrong magazine, or watching the wrong *Springer* show," said Bush.

Okay, George. So now it's Jerry's fault. Whatever. Have a pretzel.

## Galadriel, gay lads do well

This darn un-"Amurkan" behavior is sweeping the Oscars as well. The Hollywood "Gay Olympics" are suffering from a veritable Aussie Invasion.

And if you count the baker's dozen nominations for *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*, filmed in nearby New

Zealand, it's as if the entire Academy's gone down under.

Amid the flurry of rumors about the nine Fellowship actors having become very, very close pals during the 18 months of filming the J.R.R. Tolkien trilogy, many now know of the tattoos the actors now have on various body parts. The secretive nature has been revealed. Most got 'em on their shoulders, and the tattoo itself, even Oscar-nominated Sir Ian McKellen's, is the Elvish word for the number nine.

Playing on a team can often inspire such tribal bonds of fealty. The four impish actors who play hobbits — Elijah Wood, Sean Astin, Billy Boyd, and Dominic Monaghan — also found time between battling orcs to surf.

Others who recently returned from down under include members of the Federation of Gay Games, who did a site inspection of athletic and cultural facilities. Insiders report that things are going exceptionally well. Despite some inflammatory threats of financial and other problems, and a few adjustments to venues, everything is looking good for the quadrennial event set for the first week of November.

And while the participants will mostly be out GLBT jocks, the *Lord of the Rings* actors' red carpet smooching and ass-grabbing was all in fun, or so their publicists say. Still, it makes you wonder if a line from Tolkien's tomes may ring true: "Those Baginnes have always been a bit queer."

And what better way to enjoy the Oscars than with GLBT swimmers?

Team Tsunami is hosting a Pre-Oscars Freestyle Red Carpet party at Mecca, that swanky restaurant on 2029 Market Street (across the street from Safeway) this Sunday, 3-5 p.m., as a fundraiser for sending the team to Sydney. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. You can hang out afterward and watch the awards there, or hightail it to the Oscar party of your choice. For more info, or to order tickets online, visit [sftsunami.org/social/party.html](http://sftsunami.org/social/party.html).

## Drag racer, gold digger

And while rainbow patterns the world over are considered the emblem of gay pride, thanks in great part to local artist Gilbert Baker, it's not so queer in the car racing world.

Or is it? NASCAR star Jeff Gordon's wife, who claims that the couple's marriage has been "irretrievably broken" as a result of the race car driver's "marital misconduct," has filed for divorce.

Brooke Gordon is seeking an "equitable distribution" of the couple's considerable assets, which include luxury homes, boats, fancy cars, and a corporate jet. On March 15, Brooke Gordon filed a Florida Circuit Court petition in West Palm Beach, just up the road from the waterfront mansion the couple shared in Highland Beach.

Jeff Gordon is currently living with a male "business associate."

The cute, diminutive, squeaky-voiced champion is often called gay by non-fans simply because of his rainbow-patterned car. For gay fans, perhaps it's just wishful thinking. For me, the appeal lies in those cute jumpsuits with their very long zippers.

## Suds for buds

One of the more industrious



Shire-ish eyes are smilin': Hobbits hang ten.

gay-inclusive clubs in the Bay Area, Golden Gate Wrestling Club, continues its fundraising race toward Sydney.

The SF Eagle Tavern beer benefit on Sunday, March 24 will benefit the grapplers. Included in the always festive events from 2-7 p.m. will be a wrestling demo, a raffle, and plenty of food.

Looking for a more pagan way to celebrate Easter? The Lone Star Saloon beer benefit on Easter Sunday, March 31, also benefits Golden Gate Wrestling.

The club's own Brad Taylor is Bay Area Bear Cub 2001. He'll oversee the festivities in San Francisco's biggest and friendliest Bear Den from 4-8 p.m.

You can also buy a T-shirt or a sexy singlet for your own private matches. For more info, visit [www.ggwc.org](http://www.ggwc.org).

## Chile reception

The goal of Gay Games is to provide a safe welcoming environment for athletes the world over. Cynical types still question the need for gay-inclusive teams. Here's an item that shows it's still an uphill battle.

Gay groups in Santiago, Chile, have reason to protest statements made by the owner of the county's largest soccer team. He announced he would never hire a gay athlete.

According to a 356Gay.com article forwarded by a reader, Rene Orozco says he's looking for new players. But, Orozco told the newspaper *La Cuarta* that the club is looking for "real men, who are hairy, smelly, and tough."

Orozco said gay players are "another species" who "should go join a women's team. I don't want to get into trouble with the gays, but I must say a gay league would need different rules."

Gay rights activist Rolando Jiménez called Orozco a "homophobic and ignorant troglodyte."

Orozco sounds like he needs to stop by a beer benefit to find some hairy, tough, gay jocks, or perhaps watch a match with the San Francisco Spikes, who regularly defeat soccer teams composed of policemen and prison inmates. Bitch enough for ya?

## Brain-dead Kennedy

The slew of homophobic comments in the March issue of *Muscle Media* brought to light the world of ignorant fitness magazines. While editor David Kennedy issued a vague apology after printing a string of anti-gay letters in response to the absence of female cover models, and GLAAD launched its usual competent report, some readers tell me that's simply not enough. I concur.

Without repeating Matthew S. Bajko's thorough cover story from last week's *Bay Area Reporter*, it's fair to say that there can never be too much sensitivity training for such publications. While most offer a wink-wink homoerotic ed-

itorial stance, *Muscle Media* remains one of the more defiantly straight-centric. Post a letter to the editor at [www.musclemedia.com](http://www.musclemedia.com). Why not a June issue with a gay couple on its cover, in honor of Pride Month?

## Low spark of high-heeled cleats

Athletic events are picking up for the Gay Games and for the Front Runner's social season. They have two big events coming up. The Little Black Dress Run is on April 6. That's the fabulous drag event that gives fashion a foot up, and benefits area organizations.

A dance and fashion contest that evening at Kimo's will top off the Little Black Dress event, so get on down to Community Thrift, Piedmont's drag shop, or Victoria's Secret to get your drag in gear.

Front Runners regularly hosts out-of-drag brunches and other social events for fellow GLBT runners, but this is their exceptionally "Springer-esque" event.

To find out more, visit [www.sfrunners.com](http://www.sfrunners.com) or call (415) 978-2429.

## Kick me

Attention Ripley's Believe it or not! Triangle Tae Kwon Do Club's third annual kick-a-thon will raise funds for Pride and Eureka Valley Rec Center. This Saturday, March 23, at 1 p.m. near the tennis courts at the EVRC, team members will attempt to throw 1,000 kicks in one hour.

Come on by and cheer on a "kicker" or sponsor one. For more information, visit [www.triangletkd.org](http://www.triangletkd.org) or come by EVRC on Friday between 7 and 9:30 p.m. and ask for Triangle Tae Kwon Do Club. Kicky!

## Where and when

It helps to plan ahead. Among the upcoming spring sports events are:

- Golden Bear Classic Softball Tournament, a big ol' tourney where softball teams from all around come to bat up. Call (415) 928-1323. Website: [www.sfgsl.org](http://www.sfgsl.org); e-mail: [gbcopen@sfgsl.org](mailto:gbcopen@sfgsl.org).

- The Gay & Lesbian Tennis Federation of San Francisco keeps courts busy with a gay flair. Its United States Gay Open isn't until May 24-27, but its new members mixer is April 27. Plenty of time to make a racket. Info: GLTF, 2215-R Market Street, Ste. 109, San Francisco, CA 94114. Website: [www.gltf.org](http://www.gltf.org).

## Who, me?

Are you a GLBT athlete going to Sydney for Gay Games in either a team or individual sport? Want your gay press moment of fame? If I haven't interviewed you before, pop an e-mail to [jimprov@hotmail.com](mailto:jimprov@hotmail.com). ▼

Between Oscar parties, visit [www.sportscomplex.org](http://www.sportscomplex.org).

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## LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) will conduct an accreditation survey of San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center, Mental Health Rehabilitation Facility, and the Bridge to Wellness Program from April 22, through April 26, 2002. The purpose of the survey will be to evaluate the organization's compliance with nationally established JCAHO standards. The survey results will be used to determine whether, and the conditions under which, accreditation should be awarded to the organization.

JCAHO standards deal with organizational quality of care issues and the safety of environment in which care is provided. Anyone believing that he or she has pertinent and valid information about such matters may request a Public Information Interview with the JCAHO's field representatives at the time of the survey. Information presented at the interview will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process. Requests for a public information interview must be made in writing and should be sent to the JCAHO no later than five working days before the survey begins. The request must also indicate the nature of the information to be provided at the interview. Such requests should be addressed to:

Office of Quality Monitoring  
Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations  
One Renaissance Boulevard  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL, 60181

JCAHO will acknowledge such requests in writing or by telephone and will inform the organization of the request for any interview. The organization will, in turn, notify the interviewers of the date, time, and place of the meeting.

## VACANCIES

Sunshine Task Force has 9 openings. The members are drawn from the following categories: two appointed from names submitted by local chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, one an attorney, one a local journalist; one appointed from the press or electronic media; one appointed from names submitted by New California Media, to be a journalist from a racial/ethnic-minority owned news organization; four members of the public who have demonstrated interest in or have experience in the issues of citizen access and participation in local government; two members of the public experienced in consumer advocacy.

Application must be received by the Clerk of the Board by April 8, 2002.

All applicants must be residents of San Francisco unless otherwise stated. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Rm. 244, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the city's web site: [www.sfgov.org](http://www.sfgov.org).

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The City and County of San Francisco's Mayor Office on Homelessness and Department of Telecommunications and Information Services announces its intent to seek proposals from individuals, agencies or organizations to assist and coordinate the planning process and the development of a (RFP). The RFP will include the comprehensive functional requirements for a computerized data collection system specifically designed to capture system-wide information over time about the characteristics and service needs of men, women and children who experience homelessness in San Francisco. The selected contractor will be responsible for the coordination of the interdepartmental and community planning process around this effort.

For more information please e-mail at: [rfp-centralized-intake@sfgov.org](mailto:rfp-centralized-intake@sfgov.org)

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 255261

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sense Of Place Design, 733 Frederick Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Julia Carpenter. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 19, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/19/2002.

FEB. 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 255265

The following person(s) are doing business as: Benfield Works, 899 Fulton Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117-1709. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mario Antonio Benfield. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 19, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/19/2002.

FEB. 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 254817

The following person(s) are doing business as: Embellish, 800 Goettingen Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jeanette Monica Wright. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 255111

The following person(s) are doing business as: Red Tiger, 2193 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Xua Van Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 12, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 255369

The following person(s) are doing business as: Botanica Yemaya, 1601-A Page Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Blair Whitmer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/21/2002.

FEB. 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002



## STATEMENT FILE NO. 255449

The following person(s) are doing business as: Jeng Fa Si, 3140 22nd Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a non-profit corporation/organization signed Chiu-Chan Su. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/25/2002.

FEB. 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 254667

The following person(s) are doing business as: Secret River, Secretriver, 703 Webster Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Ronald B. Dennison and Richard L. Dennison. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 15, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/29/2002.

FEB. 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 255578

The following person(s) are doing business as: Moran - Lighting & Electric, 1139 Cole Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Timothy John Moran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 30, 1990. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/27/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 255599

The following person(s) are doing business as: Zebson, 210 Fell Street, #7, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Vidakovic Zelko and Felic Senijad. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 28, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/28/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 255646

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Real Food Company, Fresh Organics, 1001 & 1023 Slatkany Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Timothy W. Hinrichs, VP. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/01/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 255645

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Real Food Company, Fresh Organics, 3939 24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Timothy W. Hinrichs, VP. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/01/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 255037

The following person(s) are doing business as: TFM International, Inc. 160-16th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Joel Levine, Treasurer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 7, 1997. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/08/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 255704

The following person(s) are doing business as: Tina's Laundromat, 636 Chenery Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Patrick Sahagun. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 11, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/08/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 255461

The following person(s) are doing business as: SF Skincare, 2000 Van Ness Avenue Ste 509, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Shari Spakes, manager. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on November 16, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/25/2002.

MAR. 14, 21, 28, APR 4, 2002

LEGAL  
NOTICES

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 255788

The following person(s) are doing business as: Utopia Catering, 947 Geary Street Apt. #11 San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael Adams. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/2002.

MAR. 14, 21, 28, APR 4, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 255820

The following person(s) are doing business as: Kamel Household Wares, 606 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Quyen To Huynh. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/07/2002.

MAR. 14, 21, 28, APR 4, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT  
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME. FILE NO. 203310

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Kamel Restaurant Supply. Located at: 507 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 3/22/1996. This business was conducted by: a individual: Quyen To Huynh.

MAR. 14, 21, 28, APR 4, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 255819

The following person(s) are doing business as: Kamel Restaurant Supply, 507 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Quyen To Huynh. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/07/2002.

MAR. 14, 21, 28, APR 4, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 255560

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pre-Millennium, 7 Leland Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Michael R. Tenorio and Alicia Tenorio. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/27/2002.

MAR. 21, 28, APR 4, 11, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 255904

The following person(s) are doing business as: Two B Restaurant And Bar, 598 Second Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Harvey Rifkin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/11/2002.

MAR. 21, 28, APR 4, 11, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 255890

The following person(s) are doing business as: A Concept, 386 Precita Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Ernest E. Frost. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 11, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/11/2002.

MAR. 21, 28, APR 4, 11, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 256006

The following person(s) are doing business as: Jin Company, 645 Larkin Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jinsung Zhang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 14, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/14/2002.

MAR. 21, 28, APR 4, 11, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 255971

The following person(s) are doing business as: Green Wave Consulting Services, 1825 Chestnut Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Doubias Messersmith Wasmuth. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 13, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/13/2002.

MAR. 21, 28, APR 4, 11, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND  
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN  
FRANCISCO FILE NO. 02-540166

In the Matter of the Application of Jeffrey Tar Genza. For change of Name. The application of Jeffrey Tar Genza for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jeffrey Tar Genza has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Claudio Milano. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 2nd day of May at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002



## LEGAL NOTICES

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS OR CITATION**  
CASE NUMBER: FL 044400

Upon reading and filing evidence consisting of a declaration as provided in Section 415.50 CCP by Marjorie A. Williams and it satisfactorily appearing therefrom that the defendant, respondent, or citee, Greg Williams, cannot be served with reasonable diligence in any other manner specified in article 3, Chapter 4, Title 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and it also appearing from the verified complaint or petition that a good cause of action exists in this action in favor of the plaintiff, petitioner, or citee therein and against the action or that the party to be served has or claims an interest in, real or personal property in this state that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Court or the relief demanded in the action consists wholly or in part in excluding such party from any interest in such property: Now, on motion of application for publication of summons Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff(s), Petitioner(s), or contestant(s), It is Ordered that the service of said summons or citation in this action be made upon said defendant, respondent, or citee by publication thereof in The Bay Area Reporter a newspaper of general circulation published at San Francisco California, hereby designated as the newspaper most likely to give notice to said defendant; that said publication be made at least once a week for four successive weeks.

It is Further Ordered that a copy of said summons or citation and of said complaint or petition in this action be forthwith deposited in the United States Post Office, post-paid, directed to said defendant, respondent, or citee if his address is ascertained before expiration of the time prescribed for the publication of this summons or citation and a declaration of this mailing or of the fact that the address was not ascertained be filed at the expiration of the time prescribed for the publication.  
MAR 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 02-540172**  
In the Matter of the Application of Frank Guerra Medina for change of Name. The application of Frank Guerra Medina for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Frank Guerra Medina has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Francis Sebastian Medina. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 6th day of May at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
MAR 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

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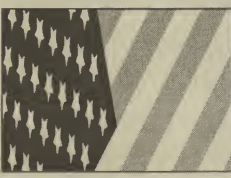
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## LEGAL NOTICES

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 02-540088**  
In the Matter of the Application of Freedom Wong, for change of Name. The application of Freedom Wong for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Freedom Wong has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Philip Wong. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 2nd day of May at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
MAR 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 0255915**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: S&S Brothers Company, 101 Utah Street #130, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Rabinder Maheshwari. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/12/2002.  
MAR. 21, 28, APR 4, 11, 2002



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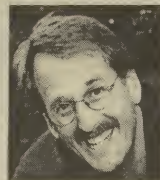
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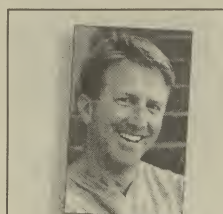
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 12 • 21 March 2002

## Naked and gold

This year's  
Oscar ambitions

by Matthew Kennedy

**F**ilm's Miss America pageant is upon us yet again. Wasn't it just yesterday that Julia Roberts shushed the orchestra so she could natter on about her basic wonderfulness? Everybody's abuzz, and what a comfort it is that Oscar's luster has not been dimmed by the ridiculous proliferation of film awards. No siree, the Pocatello Film Critics Circle can't hold a candle. Any damage done to Oscar is strictly its own making as, year after year, nominations and awards go to questionable recipients. Or maybe awards based on artistry and technology will always feel like a case of popularity and politics. After all, there is no objective criteria to judge, and no absolute good



to be gained. Call the Oscars a guilty pleasure, but it's one shared by billions. So, without further adieu, the nominees are...  
**Actress:** Pearls and coal Former Tom Cruise trinket Nicole Kidman (left) of *Moulin Rouge* is a stylish woman and a tabloid darling, but she also has a strangle hold on vapidty. No one in movies today

has come so far on so little. Renee Zellweger, titular star of the cellulite comedy *Bridget Jones's Diary*, isn't much better. She looks like she just sucked on a lemon, and she's not funny or dramatic enough to be anything but occasionally noticeable. The Academy continues its love affair with Judi Dench (left, 4 nominations and one win in 5 years!) with a nomination for her



**Actor:** Loved him, hated him Russell Crowe (left), doing his best Dustin Hoffman impersonation, is all mannerisms as wigged-out genius John Nash in *A Beautiful Mind*. Sean Penn plays mentally inadequate in *I Am Sam*. What a muddle-headed movie — all you need is love, or does it take a village? Watching Penn sell



Alzheimer's Disease-sufferer in *Iris*. She grows mute and heartbreaking in a performance that earns its stripes. Then there's Halle Berry, miscast as a small-town Death Row widow in *Monster's Ball*. All the meaty acting in the world can't disguise the fact that she is simply too beautiful to play a woman beaten down to society's lowest rung. Finally, Sissy Spacek in *In the Bedroom* has a role that delivers her from the purgatory of dull, liberal, sainted-mother television message-movies. By the end of this most painful of dramas, she is complex, troubled, mysterious and indelible.

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## Best supporting 'Fluffer'

Prepping a porn star to perform

by Gary Morris

**F**luffing, like that other touchy f-word "felching," was once an obscure term, the exclusive province of pornhounds and industry insiders. But with a slew of recent sex-star documentaries (*Sex: The Annabel Chong Story*, *Wadd*, *Porn Star*), it's become part of the hip lexicon, so much so that we now have an entire movie called *The Fluffer* that's devoted to the seductive if not always rewarding occupation of preparing a male porn star to perform before the camera.

This *Fluffer*, directed by Richard Glatzer of *Grief* fame, along with porn vet Wash West, is a low-budget, queer coming — make that cumming — of age drama, a less pretentious, more homo *Boogie Nights*. Strong acting and an engaging mix of wit and pathos make *The Fluffer* a surprisingly successful take on the eternal elusiveness of the romantic/sexual ideal. It opens Friday at the Lumiere.

The film states its theme in an opening quote from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*: "Both boys and girls looked to him to make love, and yet that handsome figure of proud Narcissus had little feeling for either boys or girls." The Narcissus in question is Johnny Rebel, aka Mikey (Scott Gurney), a hung and hunky hetero boy who seems to have feelings for girls and pretends,

page 33 ►



Micheal Cunio  
in *The Fluffer*

Peter Hamer

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS





by Roberto Friedman  
and Bob Sequious

So many gay heroes to fluff this week! First, gay talk-show queen and magazine namesake **Rosie O'Donnell** created a media sensation as she bared her breast (well, not literally) and came out as a lesbian mom to former Nixon speechwriter **Diane Sawyer** on ABC's *Nightline* last week.

Rosie told Diane, "You know, there are many housewives out there who watch the show and who love me. And you know, people said to me, 'What if they stop watching?' I have more faith in them than that." And the show's on its last legs, anyway.

On how her partner feels about her speaking out: "Well, she's a very private person, you know. She thinks it's a good thing to do on the whole, but she's like, 'I hope they don't expect me to do like an **Anne Heche** interview!'" But Heche is soo Sept. 10.

Then there's international gay hero **Sir Ian McKellen**, coming soon to a gay pride parade near you, who made a fab fag guest-host appearance on *Saturday Night Live* last weekend. McKellen dropped his boyfriend into the opening chat, and remarked that though NYC's St. Patrick Day parade again didn't welcome gay men, they seem to have no prob-



Sir Ian McKellen as Gandalf

lem including priests.

Sir Ian also played a mean **Yves St. Laurent** and did a spot-on **Dame Maggie Smith**, complaining haughtily that the **Academy** always goes for "little, chubby **Judi Dench**."

Meantime, local heroes **Silas Howard** and **Harriet "Harry" Dodge**, **Tribe 8** punk star

and performance artiste respectively (not to mention co-founders of the legendary **Red Dora's** dyke café), nabbed the Audience Award for Best Feature at last week's trendsetting SXSW Film Fest in Austin, TX (aka "the real indie festival that Sundance is no longer.") To date, Howard and Dodge's butch buddy movie *By Hook or By Crook* has nabbed three gay film-fest audience awards in four gay fest outings, taking top honors at Seattle, Los Angeles, Sydney. OT believes they would have scooped up the other one when they played the SF gay fest last summer if the audience hadn't been so overexcited they simply forgot to fill out their ballots!

OT has also been rooting for perky reality-TV heroes **Danny and Oswald**, the Gay Best Friends Team on CBS's action game show *The Amazing Race 2*. The fab fag-team proclaimed, "We're going on this race because we're absolutely fabulous!" We guess that's *Amazing* with a g for gay, gay, gay!

SF singer/songwriter **Garrin Benfield** makes for one comely gay hero, too, last week premiering some groovy new songs for an intimate gathering of friends and fans. His new album, pretty and soulful from the sound of it, releases in May; meantime, you can catch the debut of his new trio at the **Starry Plough** (3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on Friday, March 22. **Matt Easton** and **Tremolo** open the show at 9 p.m.

#### Embracing Oscar

Out There was going to declare this column an Oscar-free zone, as Oscarwise you're getting both **Matthew Kennedy's** delicious wrap-up and **Tavo Amador's** delightful history in these pages; and the *Chron* has been covering the story for, oh, about six months now.

But we can't let the opportunity go by to plug the 22nd Annual **Academy of Friends** Gala, Sunday night beginning at 5 p.m. in the Festival Pavilion at Fort Mason. The Academy of Friends hold the oldest HIV/AIDS fundraiser in SF, having started raising money for that cause before there was even a name for it in 1981; and, at 3,500 attendees, it's the largest in Northern California. It's also the largest Oscar

party outside of Los Angeles, and let's all give a big hand to being outside of Los Angeles!

To date, the Friends have distributed \$3.8 million to Bay Area agencies, and the goal for this year's gala is a tidy half-mil. Tickets are \$200 through Friday, March 22, 5 p.m. by phone (415) 995-9890, or [www.academyoffriends.org](http://www.academyoffriends.org); or through Sunday, 5 p.m., at Under One Roof, 549 Castro; and at the door, \$250. The party, the glamour, the boys sprayspainted gold, the tuxedos, the *hors d'oeuvres*, the widescreen TVs, the endless acceptance speeches, the boffo production numbers, and the fun never stop (until Midnight.)

#### Chamber made

Calling all gay classical musicians: The **Pyotr Players** want you! The LGBT chamber music group, named in honor of that well-known gay composer **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**, is currently forming. All classical musicians, including singers, are welcome. Features will include informal gatherings for sight-reading and performance in various combinations, and a membership roster to enable members to contact each other to arrange for music-making on their own.

For further information, contact [pyotrplayers@hotmail.com](mailto:pyotrplayers@hotmail.com).

#### Techno erection

From the **Gossip Guy's** column on the *Harvard Crimson* online: "**Lee S. Robinson** [Class of '05 is unable to become aroused without the presence of ear-splittingly loud techno mixed on a laptop. 'I totally got cockblocked the other night when an error of type 3 occurred and Winamp crashed; said a distraught Robinson. Nn-tss, nn-tss, nn-tss..."]

Kids today, cockblocked or not! Can anyone under 30 tell us what "nn-tss" signifies? Meantime, recording artist **Moby** re-



Moby simulates getting it.

vealed in his online diary *Moby Updates* that he spent a recent night simulating sex with a robot for a photo session. He doesn't go into details about the shoot, but remarks, "My job is weird."

Posting on [www.moby.com](http://www.moby.com), he writes: "Who else simulates sex with a robot in a seedy hotel room at 2 in the morning while getting photographed?" Uh, the line forms to the right.

"But this was simulated. Really. Actual penetrative intercourse with a robot would be painful, I imagine." Just do it! ▼

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## THEATRE

# Tennessee waltzing

## Playwrights inspired by early Williams

by Richard Dodds

It's a curious idea, but an intriguing one as well. Take an early one-act play by Tennessee Williams, one that clearly if crudely anticipates his coming brilliance, and then let a group of developing playwrights have free reign in writing short pieces in response.

The result opens this week at the Eureka Theatre, as members of the Eastenders Repertory Company offer a diverse set of variations on Williams' *The Long Goodbye*. This source of the project's inspiration is a memory play that lays the groundwork for the yet-to-be-written *The Glass Menagerie*.

The 1940 play provides the first act of the evening, called, with exclamation included, *Tenn in 2002!* After intermission, eight new pieces by five authors will be presented under the umbrella title *Hello's the Word*. The title comes from a line in Williams' play, and it's also the title of the first of the new plays.

Charles Polly, a co-artistic director of Eastenders, is the author of the play called *Hello's the Word*, as well as another short piece for the second act. Months ago, Polly and company had pretty much decided on *The Long Goodbye* for spring production, and were trying to think up a suitable companion piece. Albee,



Splashdown: ACT launches the national tour of *Urinetown* next year.

is 15 minutes, the shortest barely 90 seconds, with a similar stylistic range.

"Susan Evans, our other artistic director, wrote a piece called *Farewell for Four*, or *Williams Meets Beckett on a Park Bench*," Polly said. "It's a lovely piece. On the other hand, Madeline Lacquet-Aranda basically used the play's characters and tried to write in the

style of Williams. We have one writer who wrote a piece called *No Sacred Cow*, and he uses the main characters and just goes off on a surreal approach for three minutes. We find it very funny."

In addition to *Hello's the Word*, Polly's gay extrapolation on the bonding of two main male characters in *The Long Goodbye*, Polly has written *En Avant!* — in this case, with exclamation provided by Williams. "It was a phrase Tennessee used a lot in his letters to say move forward," Polly said. The short play is a "surreal spiritual" variation on *The Long Goodbye*.

There's even a *Long Goodbye*-inspired parody of Polly's own *Twyla* trilogy, an autobiographical saga of a grown gay man coming to terms with his Appalachian past. "It's very funny," Polly said. "It's an in-joke, but it works outside of that as well."

Much of Eastenders' focus for the past few years has been to get all three *Twyla* plays up on a stage. The 19-member group has also drawn attention with its one-act play festivals.

Now that the Eureka has turned itself into a rental home to other companies, Polly hopes that Eastenders will be able to stage at least two productions a year there.

"I want to work on a project called *The Rockwell Project*, using the drawings of Norman Rockwell to create a theater piece," Polly said. "So many stories can be told just from looking at them."

But first, *Tenn in 2002!*, running at the Eureka through April 7. Call (510) 434-0734 for tickets and info.

### New season at ACT

ACT is launching the national tour of *Urinetown* as part of its just-announced 2002-03 season. You should already fear the headlines ("A Splashy Show") and its 15 minutes as a topic for the *Chronicle's* columnists. But the show itself is a hoot, and ACT can score this as a coup.

ACT's involvement flows (un-

intended pun, but see?) from its relationship with the Dodgers. This is a loose group of Broadway producers who enlisted ACT to help mount its pre-Broadway productions of *High Society* and *Wrong Mountain*. *Urinetown* is an absurdist comic-book look at a grim future created by people who love the musical theater enough to have fun with it.

But we'll have to wait for *Urinetown*. It will be the final show of the season, opening June 24, 2003. The first show, coming Sept. 19, continues artistic director Carey Perloff's passion for directing Tom Stoppard plays, notably such relatively recent titles as *The Invention of Love*, *Indian Ink*, and *Arcadia*. But *Night and Day* represents earlier Stoppard, and ACT's production is billed as the first major revival of the play in 25 years.

This look at foreign correspondents in an African country facing incipient revolution will feature all four members of ACT's core acting company: René Augesen, Marco Barricelli, Steven Anthony Jones, and Gregory Wallace.

Like *Urinetown*, *Lackawanna Blues* is another production traveling to the Geary Theater from New York. This one-man show by Ruben Santiago-Hudson, a look at growing up in the '50s, had its premiere last year at New York's Public Theatre. Notable blues guitarist Bill Sims Jr. continues to provide the live musical accompaniment for the show, opening Oct. 27.

Barricelli is back for David Mamet's *American Buffalo*, coming in January, this time playing one of two small-time hustlers planning to burgle a valuable coin collection. Gears will shift, radically, as the profane *Buffalo* gives way in February to the whimsy of a giant rabbit called *Harvey*. Gregory Wallace is playing Elwood P. Dowd, a bit of a twist because Wallace is African-American.

The core group quartet will be all together again for *The Three Sisters*, opening in May. Perloff is directing Chekhov's tale of discontented siblings dreaming of the bright lights of Moscow. A seventh play is still to be announced. And, no news here, *A Christmas Carol* will return.

Season tickets (\$67-\$438) are now on sale. Tickets for individual productions will go on sale on Aug. 25. Call 749-2250 for the details. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at [BARstage@aol.com](mailto:BARstage@aol.com).

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Eastenders co-director C. Polly

Pinter, and Chekhov were considered, but the members of Eastenders, a long-running dues-based company, finally decided to do it themselves.

"We got together on a Thursday night, and I had, like, 12 people here, and I was very excited," Polly said. "We read the play out loud, and there were all these different reactions. Some were like, 'This is certainly Tennessee Williams. It's wonderful. It's poetic.' And others were like, 'This is hokey. The lines are terrible.'"

As for Polly, he said, "I think it's flawed in some aspects, but it's one of those works that, I think, plays better on the stage than it reads. The poetry's there, the angst is there, the struggle with family relationships is there."

In the play, a grown son recalls in flashbacks his late mother, absent father, and soon-to-be sister. "The themes are huge and universal," Polly said, making it a suitable candidate for playwright exploration.

The results were all over the map, Polly said, and the chosen eight still reflect that. The longest



# Aroused by Balanchine

## San Francisco Ballet shines in 'Jewels'

by Stephanie von Buchau

When Helgi Tomasson arrived in San Francisco 17 years ago, many people were afraid he would turn the coarse, rambunctious San Francisco Ballet into "Balanchine West," with too many of what the ignorant — always first with the loudest opinions — thought would be cold, white, abstract ballets. One can hardly count on five fingers actual Balanchine works with that description, yet the myth persists. In any event, Tomasson fooled everybody by sponsoring hot, mad pieces by Billy Forsythe, Redha and Mark Morris. The company's major Balanchine assumptions — *Theme and Variations*, *Liebeslieder Walzer*, *Symphony in Three Movements* — were neither cold, boring nor cerebral.

You had only to watch the audience surge to its feet cheering after the local premiere of *Theme and Variations* to understand that the Balanchine wing of SFB was going to fly. I was reminded of *Theme* during "Diamonds," the third act of Balanchine's *Jewels*, an evening-length abstract ballet that had its SFB premiere last Tuesday. It's too late to see it now — it's so difficult they had to do it all in one week without distractions — but when it returns, get your tickets early. *Jewels* may prove to be the most enduring contribution to SFB's Balanchine repertory.

"Diamonds" employs the last four movements of Tchaikovsky's little-played Third Symphony, nicknamed *Polish* because of its concluding Polonaise. This aristocratic Polish dance in 3/4 time sweeps the corps around the stage with the kind of arrogance that only well-born nobility commands. *Theme* likewise ends with a Polonaise, and if "Diamonds" doesn't lift your scalp the way *Theme* does, it is because the music is not as good. And music is the bottom line with Balanchine. It used to be the bottom line at SFB, too, but the death of music director Denis de Coteau seems to have blunted that noble aim. The once puissant SFB Orchestra, which played superlative Tchaikovsky under de Coteau, now sounds ordinary.

### Liquid melody

Musical enervation hurt the first ballet of the evening, "Emeralds," where the score is from Gabriel Fauré's incidental music to Maeterlinck's Symbolist play, *Pelléas et Mélisande*, and from *Shylock*. It is obvious that this amorphous music was chosen for its very French character. The choreographer, who noted sagely that you can't dance to Beethoven, picked Fauré's scores deliberately for their lack of dance pulse. It has been suggested that "Emeralds," its movement a fluid liquefaction of melody, takes place under water. I found the watery green cyclorama and tutus more remi-

niscient of a hospital corridor, but then I've never been a fan of Barbara Karinska's hokey costuming.

Still, the long, floating tutus do accent the buoyant quality Balanchine wanted from the corps in "Emeralds." Unfortunately, they didn't dance it that way, being put off I believe by the inability of conductor Neal Stulberg to control the score; it tended to flop rather than glide, and the orchestra wasn't always in tune. The soloist on opening night included Joanna Berman, whom I enjoyed for her heart-stopping bourrées and her deliquescent arms. She was partnered by Cyril Pierre, who is French if nothing else. (I just wish he didn't sniff as if Joanna had a day-old fish tucked in her bodice.) The secondary couple, Julie Diana and Damian Smith, turned up the heat in their improbable duet, in which they arrive at poses inch by jerky inch. For some reason, the more the choreography jerked, the hotter it got.

I had the same feeling in "Rubies" (music by Stravinsky) when Tina LeBlanc and Gonzalo Garcia gamboled like a pair of puppies let loose in the backyard. Sex in Balanchine is seldom graphic or vulgar, as his detractors seem to wish it were, but it is still arousing. Muriel Maffre was the leggy goddess manipulated by four adoring swains. She had fun with the part, giving each boy a look of sneering disdain.

Yuan Yuan Tan used a look,



SF Ballet dancers Gonzalo Garcia and Tina LeBlanc gambol in 'Rubies.'

too, in "Diamonds," the ballet's final act. I wonder sometimes, remembering those stories of Mr. B. drawing to some overacting ballerina, "My dear, just dance," if those looks are supposed to be there. (Or if I'm imagining them.) "Diamonds" takes place in the mythical St. Petersburg Balanchine remembered before it became Petrograd and Leningrad. His ballerina is a remote creature, with a gorgeous legato line and a rapturous adagio style; she is elegant, haughty yet tender. It's like remembering your mother as a Princess, dressed for an Imperial Ball at the Winter Palace.

Well into the lengthy classical duet (really a scene) between Tan and Roman Rykine, the dancers hear a tremolo in the strings that signals storm clouds, danger, possibly Von Rothbart making an appearance from *Swan Lake*. Suddenly, the dancing becomes more urgent, more personal. Are they to

be separated? Must she fly away? Perhaps he is not a Prince, but a commoner who can really dance. Without ruffling the pure classical surface, Tan and Rykine subtly reflected the drama of more turbulent music. When he knelt to kiss her hand at the end, she cast him a look of utter despair, as if this were the end of everything beautiful in their world.

When you look at it historically, it makes sense. In 1967, Balanchine must have remembered himself as a 20-year-old dancer-choreographer, leaving his homeland for adventures in the West, running from an encapsulated but comfortable dance environment to the real world, a new language (or two), new ideas, a new musical and choreographic vocabulary. I dare anyone to look seriously at "Diamonds," the way SFB dances it, and think: cold, sexless, cerebral, undramatic, uncaring. ▼

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## Difficult listening

### Adversity at the Symphony

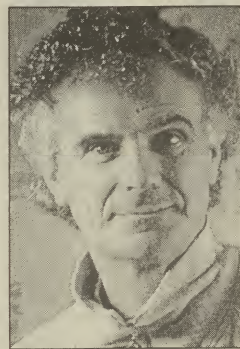
by Philip Campbell

It seems to be all about premieres at the San Francisco Symphony these days. Steven Mackey and our own Michael Tilson Thomas both debuted highly successful scores late last month, and the past two weeks brought even more first-time events. To say that the most recent openings met with contrasted response would be a polite and careful understatement.

Calling the early March performances of Aaron Jay Kernis' Symphony No. 2 a premiere occasion may be a bit of a stretch: the work is actually 10 years old. Still, it was the first chance for local audiences to hear the 1995 amended version, and the results were, quite surprisingly, controversial. If Kernis meant to shock his listeners into a heightened awareness, he certainly got his wish.

Peter Maxwell Davies conducted the North American premiere of his *Antarctic Symphony* last week. Those who stayed seemed mostly satisfied, but more than a few headed for the exits early. Davies was already gambling by placing the new work alone on the second half of the bill. That was no standing ovation he received: people were simply putting their coats on in place.

How could Mackey and Tilson Thomas so easily please a Symphony crowd while Kernis outraged and Maxwell Davies seemed to perplex? For one thing, both of the former works delivered in-



Peter Maxwell Davies conducted.

stant gratification. The latter pieces were never meant to be easy.

That's not to say accessibility is a bad thing. The composers were aiming for different results. Mackey blended exotic traditions with an almost pop-music idiom to delightful effect; Tilson Thomas added a loving caress to the beautiful texts of poet Emily Dickinson.

Kernis has made an intense, anguished statement about war and modern conflict, and Maxwell Davies has attempted to evoke one of the most unforgiving places on the face of the earth. Could either of them have achieved their goals with a pleasant listening experience?

Chatting, a week after the Symphony No. 2 performances, next page ►



## THEATRE

# Hard-boiled dames

'Women Behind Bars' at Theatre Rhino

by Richard Dodds

My, how tastes have changed. "Just how tasteful," began a 1983 theater review, "is *Women Behind Bars*? Well, on a scale of 1 to 10, figure it around .01."

The reviewer who wrote those words was me, much to my surprise after I fished out the old review. And here I had left Theatre Rhino's *Women Behind Bars* thinking how tame Tom Eyen's 25-year-old comedy now seems.

Yes, there are still laughs to be had, thanks to Eyen's playful words and the Rhino production's lively interpretation of them. But this kind of movie-genre parody, fresh in the early '80s, has become as familiar as, say, lethal injections in Texas. And even with rape, lesbianism, profanity, and canine abuse, *Women Behind Bars* only

pushes at an envelope that has since been shredded.

Eyen's sources were those hard-boiled films from the '50s that promised to blow the lid off what really goes on in women's prisons. And in Hollywood fashion, he populated his prison with an array of character types: a wispy Southerner (Dorothy Adams), a hot-blooded Latina (Stephanie S. Cunha), a tough cookie with bad hair (Alexandra Matthew), a black hipster (Shannon West), a Marilyn Monroe wannabe (Beverly Christina McGriff), a young innocent (Joan Grinde), a brain-fried blithe spirit (Diane Wasnak), and a Bible-thumping granny.

Of course, there is also a sadistic matron (Mary Knoll) and her obsequious assistant (Treacy Corrigan) who gets jealous whenever the matron takes up with one of the new inmates. Michael Carreiro is on hand to play the vari-

ous male roles.

Director Russell Blackwood directs this effective ensemble with enough looseness to let the fun out, but with just enough restraint to keep silliness at bay. The production itself looks good on Melpomene Katakalos' multi-leveled set.

The world premiere of Kate Bornstein's *Strangers in Paradox* was originally set for this slot on the Rhino season, but the often-violent allegory about lesbian serial killers was delayed following Sept. 11. I'm not sure our brains really needed to be put on hold, but *Women Behind Bars* is enjoyable filler as we wait for sunnier days, when we can be dark again. ▼

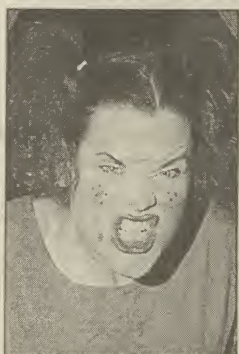
**Women Behind Bars will run at Theatre Rhino through April 13. Tickets are \$16-\$22. Call 861-5079.**



A. Matthew, J. Grinde, B. McGriff, M. Knoll are *Women Behind Bars*.

# Once upon a time

Shotgun Players' 'A Fairy's Tale'



Little Missy What's-Her-Face

by Richard Dodds

Playwright Adam Bock has many things going on in *A Fairy's Tale*, but the sweetest is the way a gay relationship develops under the same fairy-tale charms that befall all the storybook characters. The happily-ever-after in this place turns out to be the comfort of a family that extends beyond blood.

This is a tough show to pigeonhole, and that's a good thing here. Certainly, children can follow the proceedings, at least by the evidence of Sunday's performance at Berkeley Rep. And yet even the youngest should catch on

to the fact that there's something a bit off amid the usual make-believe. Grown-ups on their own can enjoy themselves, but there is little that would become uncomfortable if the kids were along.

Well, for some, maybe a loving gay kiss late in the second act, though by the time it happens these characters and their friendship have already been established. "Norbert and Ernie may be more than friends, but nobody notices," sings the narrator (Ana Bayat) in an opening song of introduction. But then a head pops through the curtain and confides to us, "People notice. People notice."

Oh, and then there's the **page 31** ►

## SF Symphony

◀ previous page

with a representative from Boosey & Hawkes, the firm that published both scores, proved amusing and insightful. It seems that one critic who liked the Kernis work received hate mail. I can trump that: I got a letter trashing the Symphony several days before I even heard it!

For those of us who have followed Aaron Jay Kernis with interest, all the uproar is a little confusing. Anyone who has heard his *Symphony in Waves*, *Colored Field* or the string quartet *Musica Celestis* knows that he is capable of writing wonderfully attractive (even lyrical) and expressive music.

The *Symphony No. 2* is a sustained howl of anger and grief in response to the Gulf War. In the tradition of Shostakovich and Britten, Kernis is relying (a little) on expressionist models to voice his rage. If the music offers little hope or solace, that is for the listener to decide. I agree with the offended that the score is repulsive and unpleasantly loud, but there are moments of tragic beauty in the threnody of the second movement, and even a brief patch of intensely serene transcendence. If the ultimate effect is brutal and frightening, I still suspect that Kernis has proved more cathartic

than he ever intended.

The symphony is a remarkably complex work, seemingly unvaried due to the relentless decibel level and its vision of a living hell, but amazingly courageous and intricate all the same. Unsurprisingly, it is impossible to like ugly music even while admiring it.

### Shock waves

It is hard to accept the fact that Peter Maxwell Davies is approaching 70. His career has revealed what seems almost a split personality (or a personality that split.) His *enfant terrible* beginnings shifted to maturity that still reveled in shock tactics. Then, suddenly, in the '70s, he became far more reflective and tranquil.

His move to the remote Orkney Islands near the northernmost part of Scotland, specifically the village of Hoy, made a deep change in his language. After some 25 years he moved to San-dia, another only slightly less isolated island. The craggy starkness of the landscape and the warm humanity of the sparse populace have lent his music, always highly original, a sense of the profound.

The commission to write the *Antarctic Symphony* was intended to commemorate the *Sinfonia Antarctica* by Vaughn Williams and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Royal Festival Hall. There was also an amazing stipulation: Sir

Peter was told by the commissioners (the British Antarctic Society and the Philharmonia Orchestra) that he must visit the region to find authentic inspiration. "Max" told the San Francisco audience, in a fascinating curtain speech, that it was a far cry from Vaughn Williams composing his *Sinfonia* in a London drawing room.

From the sounds of an avalanche to the electric shock of the icebreaker cracking through the sea, with subtle references to sea shanties and hymn tunes, Maxwell Davies has constructed a single movement of some 40 minutes' duration. The vastness of the empty spaces and the unnerving desolation (the composer said he could actually hear the workings of his own body) are all part of the unbroken span.

As pictorial music accompanying a film or video, the score would probably entrance the casual listener. As pure music, the going is a bit rougher. Still, there is fascination and an almost hypnotic intensity to the relentless tread of the *Symphony*. It does not bore, but there is a certain somberness that threatens to tire the audience. The big effects, like the visceral breaking of the ice, are downright thrilling, and the overall effect is wondrous. More than an evocation, Maxwell Davies has facilitated an almost spiritual experience. ▼

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## Oscar ambitions

◀ Arts cover

out to the Beatles, Starbucks, and IHOP in a series of product placements masquerading as a feature film was one of last year's more unsavory spectacles. There is a lot of respect for Denzel Washington in Hollywood right now, and he is volcanically good as the bad cop in *Training Day*. After years of majestic performances in sympathetic roles, there is a startling power in seeing him turn his talents away from heroism. Will Smith k.o.'s the competition for a spot with the top dogs as the egomaniacal boxer Muhammad Ali. Tom Wilkinson's mention as the anguished father of *In the Bedroom* is wholly deserved. His character undergoes an amazing

transformation, and he takes us there every step of the way.

**Supporting Actress: That mugging Dame** What's the big hoo-ha about Jennifer Connelly? Here is yet another heiress to the Hollywood hype-mill, the current 15-minute princess. As the stock wife in *A Beautiful Mind*, she gave a merely adequate performance in a thankless role. As further humiliation, the poor dear is slathered with the worst old-age makeup since Elizabeth Taylor played mother to Dennis Hopper (!) in *Giant* 46 years ago. How fortunate that Kate Winslet found work after *Hideous Kinky*, and proved she can still get Oscar's attention as the young Iris Murdoch in *Iris*. As for Marisa Tomei, look who has the last laugh! We all remember her as the joke winner for *My Cousin Vinny* nine years ago. Now



Marisa Tomei has the last laugh.

she has reemerged with a fine turn as the woman caught in the middle of *In the Bedroom*. Good as she is, however, the words "two-time Academy Award-winner Marisa Tomei" just don't ring true.

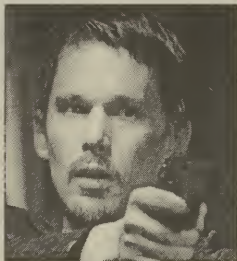
That leaves us with the dual nominations for Maggie Smith and Helen Mirren in *Gosford Park*. Mirren brings the proper



Helen Mirren in *Gosford*: gravitas

gravitas to her role as the quietly suffering servant, while Smith proves a bit more problematic. She has given the same performance for 300 years, but she's so damn entertaining that we hesitate to grouse. But once, just once, we wish she'd lend her considerable talents to a performance void of mugging, and acknowledge that she shares the screen with other actors. When was the last time Dame Maggie stretched her instrument and didn't use our amusement as her first priority?

**Supporting Actor: Image-making and breaking** A mixed bag for the men in the lower house this year. Ian McKellen's performance as the wizard Gandalf in *Lord of the Rings* registers somewhere between Endora and Grizzly Adams. Ali's Jon Voight proves that pompous actors under a rug and nose putty can get nominated for mimicking Howard Cosell. Ethan Hawke in



Ethan Hawke: how'd he get here?

*Training Day*: what's he doing here? He looks awfully puny next to Ben Kingsley, nominated for *Sexy Beast*. Gandhi has stuck to Kingsley just as sure as Mary Poppins has stuck to Julie Andrews. But instead of unfettering his bosoms to break free of a stifling screen image, as Andrews did in 1981's *S.O.B.*, Kingsley used talent. He's been doing superb work in *Bugsy*, *Schindler's List* and elsewhere, but was anybody ready for



Best Director nominee Robert Altman with Kristin Scott Thomas: deserving.

the unleashed demon of *Sexy Beast*?

What a pleasure to see Jim Broadbent nominated for his steadfast husband in *Iris*. He's so good that he may prove a successor to the great character actors of yore, right up there with Sydney Greenstreet, Claude Rains and Peter Lorre.

**Director: No contest** *Mulholland Drive*'s only nomination came for David Lynch. This movie started so promisingly, then devolved into murky purposelessness. Reverse identity, dreams become reality, or reality becomes... oh my, isn't that interesting? *Black Hawk Down*'s Ridley Scott got a nomination for his you-are-there style of war epic. Ron Howard got mentioned for his ingenuine *A Beautiful Mind*, and it appears that little Opie is so steeped in Hollywood mythmaking that he can't see the corruption of his soul. Peter Jackson picked up a nomination for the overwrought *Lord of the Rings*, and he nearly made us forget that this movie is based on a wonderful book. If there is a God, It will bestow Best Director on Robert Altman for *Gosford Park*. Not only is this a delicious treat of a movie, more appealing as character study and social satire than as murder mystery, but it puts the still iconoclastic Altman back on top. He has been nominated unsuccessfully four times prior. Dear Academy: Give this wonderful old director an Oscar already. His time has come.

**Picture: 2 out of 5 ain't bad** *A Beautiful Mind* may be the smallest piece of false consciousness to come out of Hollywood since *Forrest Gump*. Here is a movie that forgot to mention its protagonist's abandonment of his child, or his bathroom solicitations, divorce and anti-Semitism. It doesn't explore his brilliant game theory, and would have us believe that severe mental illness can be cured by the love of Jennifer Connelly. It's not p.c. to co-join bisexuality with schizophrenia, after all, but it's a-okay to attach it to genius, thereby plumb-ing America's deep reservoirs of anti-intellectualism. "I don't think [the movie's] lies and distortions] will affect Academy voters one iota, because they are very smart," Ron Howard said in a see-through attempt to flatter his way to an Oscar. "They can recognize these are tiny things blown up to undermine our movie's chances to win." Well, those "tiny things" guaranteed that Howard would make a fatally compromised movie from a fascinating life.

A culture that values scented candles and cheese nachos is bound to find an audience for *Moulin Rouge*. This one intoxicated many for its sheer over-the-topness, but excess for its own sake is a hollow tenet for moviemaking. Self-congratulatory non-nominated *Moulin Rouge* director Baz Luhrmann has announced that his baby heralds the

return of the film musical as a viable genre for the new century. But pukey sets, pointless blue-screen f/x, thrill-ride camera action, and endless renditions of "Your Song" do not a great musical make. *Moulin Rouge* is no *West Side Story*. Hell, it's not even *Springtime for Hitler*.

As for *Lord of the Rings*, here is one loooong popcorn epic. Somewhere around hour two, I realized that *Ring* was simply a tired re-tread of every coming-of-age hero's journey myth ever told. The use of select Biblical allusions didn't win me over. Neither did the in-judicious use of computer effects standing in for real grandeur. The overamplification of everything only exaggerated the emptiness. And who knew Middle Earth looked like a stag party lost in a Maxfield Parrish mural?

Two Best Picture nominees are worth their place on the roster. *In the Bedroom* is a film that says, "Come and see what grief looks like." It's exquisitely economical, and so weighty in its unrelenting commitment to some of the greatest pain humans can feel. No flash, no vanity, no concessions to trivial matters, just one long primal scream. Don't believe those TV spots that shout "redemption." *Bedroom* takes its cues from American-style frontier justice. No glimmer of hope lives here. Look closely, and this movie will shake you to your roots.

*Gosford Park* isn't exactly revolutionary. It feels more in debt to the past than any other Altman movie. But it's tidier than any of his others, too, and mixes its influences expertly, from Agatha Christie to *Upstairs, Downstairs*, to Jean Renoir's *The Rules of the Game*. Put that together with Altman's undimmed glee for ensemble playing, and you have a movie of sublime merit. The pleasure of its making fairly wafts off the screen, and the challenges of its huge cast and complex plot demand repeat viewings. If you reject Maggie Smith's scene-stealing, you'll see Alan Bates or Emily Watson doing something interesting on the edge of the screen. In *Gosford*, the rewards of the actor-loving moviegoer are bountiful indeed.

Finally, Oscar comes full circle. This year, the Academy will christen its fancy new theater on Hollywood Boulevard. Just two blocks away is the Roosevelt Hotel, scene of the first Academy Awards in 1929. And Oscar has a new award that reflects the industry's obsession with technology, Best Animated Feature. Now that really long cartoons are getting respect, how about Best Animated Actress, or Best Anthropomorphized Kitchen Appliance? It's enough to make real people weep. When will the Academy get wise and create a Best Ensemble award for flesh and blood? The movies were made for Charlie Chaplin, not Betty Boop.

See you on the red carpet. ▼

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# They kissed off Oscar!

## Actors who turned down Academy Award-winning roles

by Tavo Amador

And the Oscar goes to...," the fairly recent and politically correct replacement for the traditional and more accurate "The winner is..." are among the most exciting words a performer can hear. Yet many stars have refused Academy Award-winning roles. This raises a good question: Just how good are actors at picking great parts?

During the legendary studio era, actors often did not have a choice. Roles were assigned, and that was that. Sometimes, when stars reached a certain status, they got script approval and decided for themselves which parts to accept. After the demise of the studio system, actors had greater freedom, but it's hard to say whether that resulted in better decisions.

One star's rejection often became another's triumph. In 1934, director Frank Capra, working at the then-poverty-row Columbia Studios, asked MGM mogul Louis B. Mayer if he could borrow Robert Montgomery and Myrna Loy for *It Happened One Night*. Both stars refused, so Mayer decided to "punish" Clark Gable, whose recent successes led him to demand more money, by forcing him to work on Capra's minor picture. Meanwhile, the director persuaded Paramount to lend him Claudette Colbert for the female lead. She reluctantly agreed, provided shooting not delay her European vacation. The result was a smash, the first and, for decades, only film to win Oscars for Best Picture, Director, Actor and Actress. Ironically, these were the only Academy Awards Gable and Colbert ever received, and neither Loy nor Montgomery ever got a regular Oscar.

Norma Shearer, MGM's

"First Lady of the Screen," turned down two Oscar-winning parts. She was offered Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone With the Wind* (1939), provisionally accepted, but withdrew when a slew of fan mail complained about her playing "a bad woman." It was a wise decision, as Vivien Leigh's Oscar-honored performance confirms. In 1942, Shearer, the mother of two children, wouldn't play a woman with an adult daughter on screen, so she rejected *Mrs. Miniver*, which earned the much younger Greer Garson her only Academy Award.

### Comeback trail

Bette Davis, whose two Oscars and eight other Best Actress nominations make her among the most lauded of actresses, let two key roles slip away. In 1945, she passed on *Mildred Pierce* (as did Ann Sheridan), enabling arch-rival Joan Crawford to crown her spectacular comeback with her only Academy Award. In 1952, Davis refused to test for Lola, the sloppy housewife in *Come Back, Little Sheba*, so Shirley Booth repeated her stage triumph and took the statuette home.

Ingrid Bergman, winner of three Oscars, turned down two parts that resulted in victories for others. Her refusal to play an unwed mother in *To Each His Own* (1946) gave Olivia de Havilland her first award, and next year Loretta Young benefited from Bergman's disinterest in being the Swedish housekeeper who runs for Congress in *The Farmer's Daughter*. But de Havilland herself rejected Blanche in 1951's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, so Vivien Leigh repeated her London stage success and took home a second little man.

Love sometimes blinds a star as to an opportunity. Rita Hayworth, having eloped with Ali

Khan, wouldn't return to the cameras for 1950's *Born Yesterday*, so Judy Holiday got to recreate her Broadway triumph and take Oscar home. (Perhaps Hayworth knew she was wrong for the part.) Jean Simmons was Paramount's first choice for the princess having a *Roman Holiday* (1953), but she wasn't interested, and director William Wyler replaced her with the nearly unknown Audrey Hepburn, who earned her sole award for the part.

Too many choices can be a problem: In 1953, Eli Wallach was offered Maggio in *From Here to Eternity*, but decided to star on Broadway in Tennessee Williams' *The Rose Tattoo*. Frank Sinatra auditioned, got the part and the Best Supporting Actor Oscar, capping his celebrated comeback. Wallach has never won the award.

Timing is everything, as Jennifer Jones discovered. Set to be 1954's *The Country Girl*, she withdrew because of pregnancy. Paramount offered the role to Greta Garbo, but she couldn't be tempted back. Desperate, the studio borrowed Grace Kelly from MGM, who would win that year's Best Actress prize. Jones, who had won the Best Actress Award for 1943's *The Song of Bernadette*, was James Brooks' first choice for Aurora in 1978's *Terms of Endearment*, but refused, allowing Shirley MacLaine to make the part her own and collect her sole statuette.

Joanne Woodward got her Oscar-winning role in 1957's *The Three Faces of Eve* because Judy Garland, Susan Hayward, Carroll Baker, and June Allyson decided against playing a schizophrenic. Of those four ladies, only Hayward would ever win a regular Academy Award.

### Ego trips

Egos sometimes get in the way. Anna Magnani, first choice for the mother in 1963's *Two Women*, refused to have Sophia Loren play her daughter, and quit the film. Loren then took Magnani's role, becoming the first performer to win an Oscar for a foreign language film. Simone Signoret thought the part of the aging courtesan in 1964's *Zorba the Greek* too small, so it went to Lila Kedrova, who waltzed home with that year's Best Supporting Actress trophy. Burt Lancaster was determined to play the gay window-dresser Molina in 1985's *Kiss of the Spider Woman* in a stereotypical, flamboyant manner. But director Hector Babenco refused to let him, so Lancaster withdrew, allowing William Hurt to get his sole Oscar-winning part.

Sometimes actors are smart to say no. Cary Grant refused all offers from mogul Jack Warner to star as Henry Higgins in 1964's *My Fair Lady*, forcing the studio to give the part to its creator, Rex Harrison, who would win the Best Actor award. (Grant must have wondered who would have helped him eliminate all traces of his cockney accent.) Two-time winner Anthony Quinn, however, had no good reason for turning down 1972's *The Godfather*. Fortunately, Paramount eventually made Marlon Brando an offer he couldn't refuse, and he sealed his comeback by winning a second trophy. Similarly, both Lee Marvin and Rod Steiger refused 1970's *Patton*, allowing third choice George C. Scott to famously refuse his Best Actor award.

So, as we watch the ceremony this coming Sunday evening, it's fair game to ask who the first choices were, and if they are wondering why they said, "No, thanks." ▼

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## A Fairy's Tale

◀ page 29

swamp that makes sounds like farts whenever you step in it. Needless to say, the cast must trudge its way noisily through it on the way to confront a giant whose foot destroyed the world around Little Missy-What's-Her-Face (Beth Donohue).

Also along on this journey, reminiscent of both *Into the Woods* and *Wizard of Oz*, is a prim housekeeper (Trish Mulholland) whose clumsiness resulted in the accidental death of her employers. And there's the aforementioned Norbert (Ty Blair), who couldn't save his best friend Ernie (Andy Alabran) from dying, apparently, in quicksand.

Just describing scenes may be the best way to explain the familiar/unfamiliar world that Bock has created. In two previous plays produced first in San Francisco, *Swimming in the Shallows* and the current *Five Flights*, Bock also created an alternate world that still makes sense. Still, there are moments when *A Fairy's Tale* plies a joke for too long, and the nature of the thing suggests a 90-minute show rather than two hours with an intermission.

Still, it moves along well under Patrick Dooley's creative direction, and the cast is just fine. In addition to those worthies men-

tioned above, count in Kathleen Antonia, Katie Bales Frassinelli, Reid Davis, and Kimberly Wilday. Sometimes the cast sings an occasional song with a title like "We're Stuck in a Dirty Fridge." But there's also a late *cappella* lament sung by the travelers that actually becomes touching. Credit for the songs goes to Clive Worsley, Kristin Miltner, and Bock.

Shotgun Players introduced Bock to local audiences with *Swimming in the Shallows*, and wisely they have kept up their relationship with him. Another reason for applause is how Shotgun got the show open on schedule, and by the third performance have it look like it really belongs on Berkeley Rep's thrust stage.

The world premiere of *A Fairy's Tale* had been expected to serve as the first production in Shotgun's first permanent space, a much smaller theater than Berkeley Rep, but final construction has hit a snag. Fortunately, Berkeley Rep was able to provide a home to the temporarily homeless again, but always interesting Shotgun Players. ▼

**A Fairy's Tale** will run at Berkeley Rep through April 5 before moving to the UC Theatre on University Avenue on April 6-7. Tickets are \$10 & \$18. Call (510) 704-8210.

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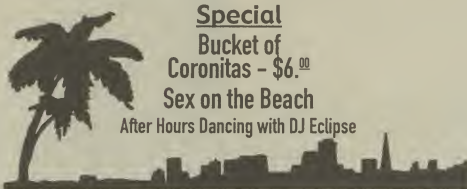
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## Disappearing act

Soprano Julia Migenes and the Kronos Quartet in new work at Theater Artaud

by Michael McDonagh

If you like your operas linear, this is probably not going to be your piece, but if you like to get in there and piece something together, it's kind of a thriller," says ACT Artistic Director Carey Perloff about her latest directing project, a music-theater version of Ambrose Bierce's story "The Difficulty of Crossing a Field," by composer David Lang and playwright Mac Wellman. It premieres March 22-24 at Theater Artaud.



Director Carey Perloff at rehearsal

Perloff, with whom we spoke at her book-lined office, is clearly behind this one. "New work is such a huge risk, and particularly experimental new work, and I think this is a very important piece and a breakthrough for both of these artists. It's also not going to give you any easy answers about history or slavery or Ambrose Bierce."

The project is tailor-made for San Francisco because Bierce lived here after he engaged in abolitionist work and fought in the entire Civil War (he was born in 1842). He wrote for several papers, including the *Sunday Examiner*, where he conducted a satirical column called "Prattle." One of his most scathingly hilarious pieces was on Oscar Wilde's San Francisco visit.

Though "Difficulty" has never been made into an opera, Bierce's work has been adapted by theater and film artists. His most famous story, "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," was turned into a striking film by Robert Enrico in 1962, and Gregory Peck played the writer who was the title character in Luis Puenzo's picture *The Old Gringo* (1989). Bierce's work even seems to have predicted his end: like the hero of this new opera, he simply disappeared in Mexico in 1914 while observing the Zapata revolution.

Perloff agrees. "I think that's why Mac Wellman was so interested in this story, and what interests Bierce is not how do you adjudicate the exact event that happened, but what are the ripple effects? In this case, a planter named Williamson walks into a field, somebody riding by in a carriage turns around to say something to him, and he's literally gone. Then



Kronos Quartet will perform as part of *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field*.

there's a trial, and since nobody knows what happened to him, the court has to say that for want of any real evidence, we decide that his estate will be distributed according to law. The death of this white slaveowner is also part of the movement of history — he had to disappear. And all the characters use his disappearance as the touchstone for their experiences."

### Winds of change

The original very short story — it's three paragraphs, and just over 700 words — never tries to explain what became of Williamson, but simply presents the facts of the matter in a clear, dispassionate tone. It's ante-bellum Selma, Alabama in 1854, and enormous changes are about to occur. "Moments of change in history," Perloff observes, "are always mysterious and frightening, and I'll tell you one of the strange things about working on this piece, which would never have occurred to me before September 11 is this question being faced right now in New York: If you don't have the bodily remains, at what point do you say when somebody's dead, and how do you go to the grieving families and say, we determine this person is dead?"

Composer David Lang, reached by phone in Manhattan, has first-hand experience. He lives a few blocks from where the towers were (he was out with his children) and saw the catastrophe happen. "The whole point of this piece, and it seems different to me after 9-11, is that when faced with an irrational event, you invent a reason to explain it — it's our foreign policy and so forth. But fundamentally there is no sense in what happens in *The Difficulty*, and because no one knows what happened to Williamson, everyone projects their feelings on him, and wants to project some vision of the rational world on this irrational event." As Wellman has Williamson's daughter say, "What if there's something special we don't see?" To which he replies, "That's ridiculous. We see everything."

This is Lang's fourth opera. The others are *Judith* and *Holofernes* (1989), which involves puppets; the big 2-act one on

John Ruskin, *Modern Painters* (1994); and the comic-book-based *The Carbon Copy Building* (1999), which he co-composed with fellow Bang On a Can music directors Julia Wolfe and Michael Gordon. Lang says he's thrilled to be working with Kronos again. His music for ACT's production of *The Tempest* was written for them, and he's done several others for the company: *Hecuba*, for the local women's vocal ensemble Kitka; and *Mary Stuart*, for Chanticleer. Perloff stresses the fact that Kronos founder and first violinist David Harrington "encouraged David to write very specifically for them — meaning not only ensemble lines, but also solo break-out ones which will express their individual personalities."

Costumer David Draper, who heads the company's shop and designed Perloff's re-thought *Hecuba*, says the clothes "will look close to period and reflect the stylized look of the production." Some of his designs were inspired by the colors in a painting he saw of slaves burying a body in Bruce Catton's famous history of the Civil War. "The palette will be deliberately controlled and plain, with the Williamson family in varying shades of blue. Kronos wears the silvery tones with slight variations."

The cast of 11 is largely drawn from local talent. ACT regular Marco Barricelli will play the non-singing parts of Williamson and the Presiding Magistrate, and African-American vocalists from hereabouts will be the slave chorus. Soprano Julia Migenes, who plays Mrs. Williamson, is internationally famous (she lives in LA, and performs in Paris a lot), perhaps most so for her performance as Carmen in Francesco Rosi's 1984 neorealist film of the opera. New works are exceedingly hard to fund, and Perloff credits benefactress Mrs. Phyllis Wattis for being totally behind the production. "I told her, 'You are the queen of the new!'" Faith like that can only inspire in these increasingly conservative, and yes, difficult times. ▼

*The Difficulty of Crossing a Field* plays Theater Artaud March 22-24. For tickets (\$25-\$30), call (415) 749-2228.



# Fluff and stuff

A chat with 'Fluffer' creators Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland

by Gregg Shapiro

What's the first thing that you think of when you hear the word fluffer? Pillows? A pet cat? A sandwich made with marshmallow fluff? What about the person in charge of making sure that a porn star maintains his erection between takes? If you thought of the last one, you're on the right track. Life partners and creative collaborators Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland co-directed and co-wrote the movie *The Fluffer*, which tells the story of gay-for-pay porn star Johnny Rebel (Scott Gurney) and Sean (Michael Cunio), the man who becomes obsessed with him when the copy of *Citizen Kane* he rents at his favorite video store turns out to be *Citizen Cum*.

Gregg Shapiro: *The Fluffer* opens with a quote about Narcissus from Ovid's *Metamorphosis*. How narcissistic does a person have to be to be working in the porn industry?

Wash Westmoreland: You

don't have to be a narcissist to work in the porn industry. There are lots of different reasons for doing porn. Our story centers on a gay-for-pay porn star, a straight guy who does gay pornos for money. Ultimately, it's not an issue of whether he likes boys or girls, it's that he gets turned on by the attention that's sent his way. He's really a complete narcissist and just wants to see his own reflection in other people's eyes. But we weren't making a generalization about all porn stars.

Richard Glatzer: It's interesting, too, for Johnny Rebel — and I do think this is true of some other porn stars — uses the economic imperative as an excuse for gratifying narcissism. It's always, "It's about money. You don't make money in straight porn." But I think there is ultimately an element of narcissism for some people.

WW: They like being worshipped.

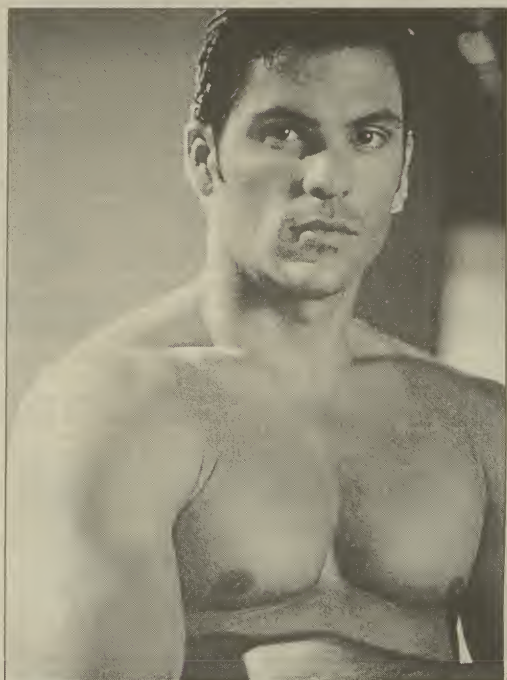
Did you have Scott Gurney in mind for the role of Johnny Rebel when you were casting the part?

WW: It wasn't written for

Scott. We were auditioning lots of Johnny Rebels, who came in off the street. When Scott walked in, it was like electric in the room. He had this charisma and this kind of cocky attitude. He got the fun of the part. As soon as he left the room, we said, "That was Johnny Rebel. We just met him."

It was cool to see actual porn industry people such as Chi Chi LaRue and Ron Jeremy in the movie as well.

WW: There were a lot of porn people in there. The industry really supported the making of this movie in tremendous ways. We used a porn office as our production office. We ran our film production from Men of Odyssey productions. I went into the porn industry to do research and actually started making adult features. In the process, I made lots of friends and got to know a lot of the characters within the industry. When it came time to shoot the film, it seemed totally natural to bring these people on and have them in the movie. The movie came organically out of the porn industry. ▼



Gay-for-pay porn star Johnny Rebel (Scott Gurney) is the fluffee.

## The Fluffer

Arts cover

as a porn star, to have feelings for boys, but in reality cares for little but himself and gratifying his immediate needs. As a popular gay-for-pay porn icon, Johnny has all the accoutrements of the lifestyle: a lap-dancer girlfriend, Julie (Roxanne Day); stray fucks with (female) pickups in Porsches; a coke 'n' crystal habit that makes him habitually late and occasionally violent; and most tellingly, a nearly infantile sense of self-absorption that contrasts nicely with his very adult, chiseled body, smoldering good looks, and 10-inch cock (seen in a few fleeting frames; schlongspotters will want to have a lorgnette handy).

Into Johnny's life, or rather crotch, comes naive young film freak Sean McGinnis (Michael Cunio), who first discovers the capricious butch through a misfiled video. The case for *Citizen Kane* actually contains one of Rebel's *meisterwerks*, *Citizen Cum*. This experience immediately redirects Sean's energy from attempting to get legit Hollywood work to applying to "The Men of Janus" studio. There he meets a familiar cast of characters: aging queen office manager and drug supplier Chad Cox (Robert Walden); fat, crotchety production supervisor Sam (Richard Riehle), who bitches at Sean's "arty" camerawork; and various fly-by-night "talent" who fuck and then run off to the next engagement. Supposedly hired as cinematographer, Sean is quickly corralled into love-slavedom as Johnny's preferred suckboy. Johnny drifts casually on and off the set and in and out of Sean's orbit, while Sean worships his idol on and off his knees.

### Grovel pit

The film couples Sean's spiraling obsession with a kind of free-floating homosexual self-hate that gives the film some decidedly un-p.c. moments. Sean's inability to accept himself as gay (his claim of bisexuality seems a cover) makes it

easy for him to grovel before Johnny. When he meets an old queen in a bar, they reminisce about the days before queers were accepted, and raise a grim toast "to the closet." When Sean gets involved with a normal queerboy who's handsome, thoughtful, and sexy, an ideal catch compared to the arrogant, self-consumed Johnny, he flees, unable to disengage from his lowly but treasured status as Johnny's occasional cocksucker.

As an insider view of the porn racket, *The Fluffer* relishes the details of these two-bit productions that seem to happen more by serendipity than plan. There are amusing discussions of the crucial "money shot," casual lessons on what to emphasize during shooting, and tips on how to deal with no-shows (hire Cole Tucker.) The film is sometimes a little too hard on the genre at times; Rebel's films are usually set in a barnyard ("You're gonna take my city cock, country boy, my city cock!") or poolside, and recall the primitive scenarios of Bob Mizer's Athletic Model Guild more than modern porn. Throughout, there are satirical jibes that lighten the melodrama. When Sean's not shooting or sucking, he dutifully organizes the Janus archive, with such titles as *The Iceman Cummeth*, *Chicken Hawks' Feeding Frenzy*, and *Tranny Get Your Gun*.

There's a quirky charm to *The Fluffer* that comes partly from its swings from humor to pathos, and partly from touches of verite and the experimental. The plot meanders into several intriguing byways that illuminate the limited lives of its characters. In a recurring sequence shot in atmospheric black-and-white, Sean relives the trauma he experienced as a young teenager jilted after an (unseen) encounter with a burly middle-aged neighbor. At a porn party (where attentive viewers will see Chi Chi LaRue, Ron Jeremy, and other luminaries), Sean and Johnny take crystal, and Sean speed-talks about *Vertigo*, a sequence the filmmakers obligingly shoot in fast motion. In a dream sequence that perfectly captures the lure of the self-loving fetish-

icon, Sean watches from behind a two-way mirror as Johnny lovingly shaves his face and then kisses the mirror.

Most important in anchoring this drama, which could have easily devolved into pathos, is the acting. The minor players acquit themselves well. Adina Porter is especially incisive in her brief appearances as Sean's co-worker and confidante. And Roxanne Day registers strongly as Johnny's world-weary girlfriend. But it's Michael Cunio as the fucked-up obsessive, Scott Gurney as the beautiful monster, and the shifting perspectives on their relationship that make *The Fluffer* feel more real and affecting than it has any right to be. ▼

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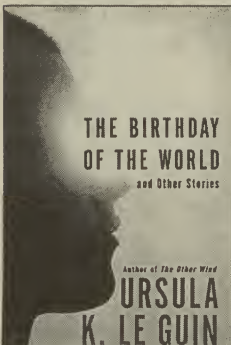
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# Fantasy prevails

by Deborah Peifer

**B**lame a Catholic upbringing (I'm recovering now, thanks for asking), but confession is an important part of my psyche. Let me admit, then, that I had never read anything written by Ursula K. Le Guin. Fantasy just doesn't appeal, you see, so I happily skipped her oeuvre. When her newest collection of short fiction, *The Birthday of the World and Other Stories* (HarperCollins, \$24.95), came my way, I thought



I'd read the Foreword (entirely out of guilt) and dismiss the rest. Oh, the shame when said Foreword captivated, entertained, and delighted. Revealed in this preamble was a writer who took the work seriously, but not herself. Pretension and pomposity turned me from the fantasy genre in the first place, and here was a woman who ad-

mitted that she had dropped a millennium and forgotten an entire planet in her fictional universe.

"Honest and earnest people," she explained, "calling it the Hainish Universe, have tried to plot its history onto Time Lines. I call it the Ekumen, and I say it's hopeless. Its Time Line is like something the kitten pulled out of the knitting basket, and its history consists largely of gaps."

Emboldened by the Foreword, I ventured cautiously but hopefully into the stories themselves, and was enchanted, and I mean that in a good way. Le Guin, it turns out, has lots to say about sexuality and the place of women and men in the universe, and child-rearing and all sorts of important topics, but she has her characters discuss these things, and only when said discussion is important to the plot and to both speaker and the listener. Le Guin's characters are vivid and real and bursting with life, her plots compelling, her writing stylish, elegant, a pleasure to savor.

I enjoyed all the stories, but the one that simply won't go away is "Paradises Lost." Space is so vast, and the distances even to the nearest stars so great, that dealing with the time problem is the first thing most authors tackle. Whether by velocities many times the speed of light or some sort of suspended animation, time might pass, but the characters don't really age. Le Guin chooses instead to explore the journey itself. She

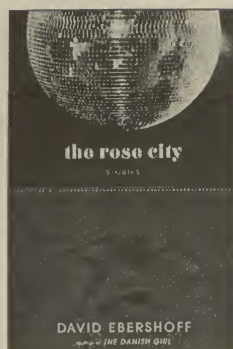
posits generations born on the Discovery who never knew the Earth their ancestors left behind, and will never know the New Earth toward which they journey. What becomes of generations for whom "the world" is the ship on which they travel — a world of perfect climate, abundant food, almost no disease — is a continu-

ally fascinating and always entertaining exploration. *The Birthday of the World* is an extraordinary collection, and it convinced me that nothing could be finer than to read and revel in the complete works of

Ursula K. Le Guin.

## More shorts

I owe Le Guin for more than pleasure, as she supplies, also in her Foreword, a name for David Ebershoff's collection of short stories, *The Rose City* (Viking, \$23.95), all of which occur in, or are about people from, or going to, Pasadena. Le Guin suggests that such a collection should be called a story suite, and that sounds like the perfect choice for *The Rose City*. You wouldn't think that Pasadena is much of an anchor for these stunning stories, but it turns out that Pasadena is the perfect choice: not exactly a small town, but not a megalopolis like New York or Chicago. Ebershoff explores the telling moment in heroes' lives, as when a life changes forever in "Chuck Paa." When Reggie's father finds him in



"The Dress," they both know that their relationship has changed irreparably. "Trespass" will, I expect, speak volumes to every one of us who, at the moment we discovered our sexuality, felt utterly alone in the universe. I had a cousin who was gay, and I still felt like the only queer in the world. Ebershoff captures that aloneness, brilliantly, but he also creates a world in which there is the possibility of discovering a kindred spirit who can provide comfort, direction, hope. The stories in *The Rose City* have the richness and complexity of a great novel, and the emotional payoff of a perfect poem. His characters live on in the memory and the heart. I felt as if I knew these people, and had

participated in their lives.

## Events bookish

So you've wondered, after (or worse, during) lovemaking, "Is that all there is?" The Harvey Milk Institute offers answers on March 21 at 7:30 p.m. when Violet Blue, Cara Bruce, and Staci Haines discuss *The Girl's Guide to Humping and Fisting*. The event is moderated by Felice Newman of Cleis Press, who's no slouch in the sexuality line herself. The adventure takes place at the SF GLBT Community Center, 1800 Market St., \$10-\$25 sliding scale.

The Bay Area Book Reviewers' Association honors the best of Northern California writing on April 4 at the Main Library. The wine-and-cheese reception with nominated authors begins at 5 p.m., the ceremony follows at 6. The event is free, and a splendid chance to hang out with some of the best writers around.

Feminist activist Andrea Dworkin reads from her memoir, *Heartbreak*, at A Different Light, March 27 at 7:30 p.m. ▼

Send literary info to:  
DeborahPeifer@msn.com.

# Disco fever

by Robert Julian

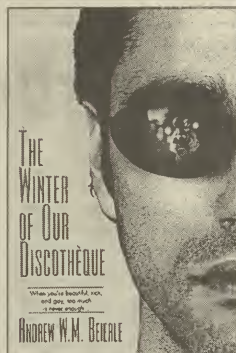
*The Winter of Our Discotheque* by Andrew W.M. Beierle; Kensington Books, \$23

**W**ith a title like *The Winter of Our Discotheque*, no one perusing the shelves at A Different Light bookstore is likely to mistake Andrew W.M. Beierle's first novel for an existential meditation on the meaning of life. As one might expect, the book is a big, unapologetically trashy wallow in the excesses of pre-AIDS queer fabulousness. As an early candidate for the perfect mindless beach read of the summer, *The Winter of Our Discotheque* boogies right to the head of the conga line.

Young Tony Alexamenos is a Greek-American grease monkey working in his alcoholic father's South Beach gas station. The book opens in 1969, the day before Judy Garland's death, as Tony, an 18-year-old surf bum, runs half-dressed toward the waiting gas tank of Dallas Eden's 1959 Cadillac convertible. Eden, the morbidly obese queer son of aging silent screen goddess Eve Eden, lives on the family's Florida estate, a few towns away from Tony's gas station. One look at the unwashed Greek god sends Eden's heart into palpitations. And with this chaste, early morning fill-up, Tony Alexander (nee: Alexamenos) begins his sluttish climb up the ladder of queer success.

Tony, of course, is a physically stunning specimen who turns heads every time he enters a room. His white trash Floridian upbringing just makes him that much more attractive to wealthy Dallas Eden and a succession of male lovers Tony encounters on his way to becoming the country's top male fashion model.

To his credit, author Beierle seems smugly aware that he's spinning a yarn from the same clichés that fueled Jacqueline Susann's *Valley of the Dolls* and a host of other, similar '60s sleaze-fests, like Harold Robbins' *The*



*Carpetbaggers*. But this one is 100% queer, with nary a female character in sight. Beierle reveals a tongue firmly planted in cheek via some of the names he chooses for his characters. My personal favorite is the firm name of Manhattan's undertaker to the stars: Lowe & B. Holde. And the chapter involving Dallas Eden's funeral is unquestionably the sharpest and funniest writing in the novel.

By the end of *The Winter of Our Discotheque*, Beierle has gone way over the top and seems to have written himself into a corner. Tony has blown yet another love affair, this time with the great love of his life, a double amputee he met in a New York fetish bar named "de Milo's" (think about it). The novel's final climax (if you'll excuse the expression) involves the fire-bombing of a Florida drag bar, with most of the novel's surviving protagonists conveniently present. Although this concluding episode is contrived and anti-climactic, Beierle must be given credit for the inspired lunacy of his own creation.

*The Winter of Our Discotheque* won't be on the short list for this year's PEN/Faulkner Award, but I'll bet it flies off the bookshelves. Tough times call for tough medicine, and this little cup of homosexual hemlock may be just what Dr. Kevorkian ordered. ▼

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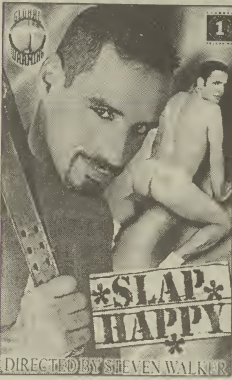


## PORN

# Rumpus room

by John F. Karr

If you think *Slap Happy* sounds like a spanking movie, and if you think a spanking movie is going to be as arousing as Andy Warhol's 24-hour stationary shot of the Empire State Building, then you're right, but wrong. Very little of *Slap Happy*'s three scenes are



devoted to spanking, and that part is actually entertaining. Maybe that's because spanking, typically punishing, is playful in this movie. Director Steven Walker is a veteran of the genre, and has considerably freshened it this time out. His movie is nicely lit, steadily photographed, and calmly edited. With more rimming

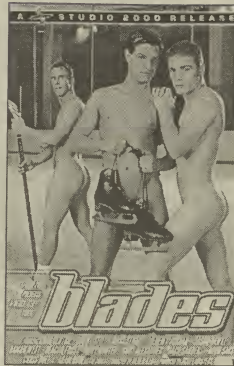
than spanking, a satisfying thorough examination of several picturesque young buttocks, and, as the finale of each scene, a well-delivered fuck that churns the cum up and out of a guy, both *Hole Happy* and *Slap Happy* might have been better titles for this unpretentious little rump romp. [www.Channel1Releasing.com](http://www.Channel1Releasing.com); (800) 997-9071.

## Ice capades

There's nothing overly distinguished about *Blades*, but it's refreshing. Arriving on the heels of Olympic figure-skating mania, it's the uncomplicated story of a would-be Olympian who has difficulty sharing the ice at his local rink with a hockey team. Naturally, the tightly-laced ballerino's arrogance is unknotted by his in-depth encounter with a kind-hearted hockettee, and before you know

it, he's treating the entire team to his famous dropped-jaw engulfment, followed by a tightly executed ass-leading swing-around with impaled spins.

In the starring role, Brad Benton's pretty face is given some attitude by the Ricky Nelson snarl in his lips. He's got caressing contours, honeyed skin, a long and steely blade of boner — and he can actually skate, too. The rest of



the appealing cast have the fresh looks of kids, with the hormone-driven appetites of young men. For these boys, sex has the softening aura of romance. It's nice. As directed by Derek Kent, *Blades* is an easy movie, and sometimes that's the way we like it. [www.Studio2000.com](http://www.Studio2000.com); (800) 435-2445.

## Karnal Knowledge

### Foreign intrigue

*American Holiday* is another romantic movie, featuring an impressive array of *molto fabuloso* Italian men. You can keep your blankly staring Czechs and Hungarians: give me these suavely handsome men whose eyes smolder meaningfully. In this movie, Ettore Tosi, star of several previ-

ous Lucas Kazan films, is in the process of coming out, and is only fully assured after he's watched lots of other superbly handsome guys make out. The first one he sees is the glamorous Viktor Racek, and he's not satisfied until he gets Mr. R. for himself. He doesn't even want muscle hunk Tiziano Cortese, who put me in a Tizzy Considerably, with his rolling muscles and curious Jungian tattoos scrolling across a shaved groin. Nor, although he gets, does Tosi seem to want dreamboat Matthias Vannelli, who is so severely beautiful that Tosi's face registers shock, like the Phantom of the Opera when he's unmasked, when Matthias approaches him. *American Holiday* has too much scenery (although some craggy American landscapes and ruins in Northern Italy are spectacular), too many syrupy



symphonic adagios (Granados and Tchaikovsky), and definitely too much cutting away from the action to show the ever-present Tosi watching. And a little too much editing in general. Yet this is the kind of foreign movie that makes you want to apply for a visa; you'll like getting cozy with Tosi. [www.lucaskazan.com](http://www.lucaskazan.com); (800) 733-3393. ▼

# Choirboy reprieve

by Jason Serinus

Nicolas Gombert — *Magnificats 1-4* — The Tallis Scholars (Gimmell)

Although Flemish Renaissance composer Nicolas Gombert (c. 1495-c.1560) is not well known, he was certainly known to Charles V. Gombert joined the Emperor's chapel as a singer in 1526, and by 1529 he was master of the choirboys in the Imperial Chapel. According to a contemporary physician named Girolamo Cardano, the Emperor at one point had Gombert imprisoned in a gallery after he was convicted of molesting a choirboy in his care.

Gombert secured his release by composing his last major works, a set of eight *Magnificats*, one on each of the eight tones. The music, generally regarded as Gombert's masterpiece, so pleased Charles V that Gombert was pardoned and allowed to retire to a benefice in Tournai, where he at

one point served as a canon of the Cathedral.

In the first of two discs devoted to Gombert's eight *Magnificats*, Peter Phillips and his famed Tallis Scholars attempt to make a good case for Gombert's music. Gombert favors lower voices: we have four altos (three of whom are male), eight tenors, and four basses in many of these *Magnificats*, but only two sopranos. The radiant voice of soprano Tessa Bonner, usually heard with the Tallis Scholars, here surfaces only briefly in the opening Antiphon, which lasts less than two minutes.

Gombert's dense music has a lot going on, with a fair amount of coming and going between voices moving in a close range. As the *Magnificats* progress through the tones from 1 to 8, Gombert adds more voices, making the writing even more complex. He sets the even-numbered verses to polyphony, and leaves the odd-numbered ones to chant.

The results, including a num-

ber of dissonances, are a bit unsettling, hardly as comfortable as listening to the Palestrina or Josquin for which this group is famed. Especially when heard as presented here, separated by chanted Antiphons that traditionally would have been sung before the *Magnificat* and repeated after it, the experience is far more one of Catholic piety than of luxuriating in God's grace and beneficence.

The Tallis Scholars perform a varied program in Stanford's Memorial Chapel on Friday, March 22 (for tickets, call (650) 725-2787) and in Berkeley's First Congregational Church on Saturday, March 23 (call (510) 642-9988). ▼



The Tallis Scholars will perform at Stanford and Berkeley this weekend.

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# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare

by Mark Marlin

### Jazz is gay

It's all about experimentation, playing unexpected riffs, reaching goals from different directions, trying out three-somes, foursomes, group gropes and blind feeling. It's steamy, sultry, downbeat, upbeat, offbeat, oddly familiar, nakedly strange, like the unpredictable beat of the Beats. Jazz offers openings for all sensations. Anyone who gets jazz gets what it means to play fast and loose with boundaries. Jazz women and men who are straight understand queer. They're forever queering up their music, maybe not with respect to sex, but always with regard to form. Jazz artists who are queer play every blue note with authenticity, just as their straight peers do. Does sexuality matter in jazz? It's not who puts what where, but how they do it — and how well. Good jazz feels like good sex, and vice versa. In jazz, there's no missionary position, wham-bam-thank-you-ma'am uptightness. All the lovin' is fluid, all the positions explored. The jazz muse breaks out of traditional patterns, just as the gay muse does. Does that make jazz gay? It's all a matter of semantics and perception. If it feels gay...

This dodgy musing comes to you just in time for week two of "SFJAZZ Spring Season 2002," which is not to be confused with the main SFJAZZ festival in the fall. The spring season, also under the splendid artistic direction of hot saxophonist Joshua Redman, continues through June, with March — Women's Month — dedicated to jazz women.

Next up on the schedule, on Friday, March 22 at Herbst Theatre (8 p.m.): "The Music of Gil Evans and Maria Schneider," featuring the Maria Schneider Orchestra with special guest trumpeter Ingrid Jensen. Schneider is an arranger with a powerhouse sound, a one-time protégé of immortal jazz arranger Gil Evans. She'll perform her own works as well as the arrangements her late mentor created for Miles Davis and others.

On Saturday, March 23, at the Masonic Auditorium (at California & Taylor), jazz vocalist Cassandra Wilson launches a national tour in support of her new CD, *Belly of the Sun*. The album includes her original songs as well as renderings of songs by Miles Davis, Hoagy Carmichael, Robert Johnson, U2 and Neil Young.

On Sunday, March 24 at Herbst Theatre, the music of Cuba will shake up the house at a "family matinee" at 3 p.m. featuring June Bennett & Spirits of Havana. Then at 7 p.m. soprano saxophonist Jane Ira Bloom takes the stage with her Quartet. *Pulse* magazine raved about her "gorgeous tones" and "hauntingly lyrical ballad conceptions." Bennett and her Spirits of Havana return to share the night stage, so expect the Herbst to be shaking with the liveliest jazz felt locally in a long while — at least since last fall's hugely successful SFJAZZ fest, which drew gays by the hundreds if not thousands, and welcomed us with open arms. ▼



Jane Ira Bloom



Trans men tell their tales at Luna Sea Theater. See Friday.

## Fri

### Jon Sims

#### Center for the Arts

AI/Rspace Artist-in-Residence Dominique Zeltzman performs "The Stalker In Me," a work in progress employing dance, trapeze, video, phone books and a sewing machine. The audience rides on choreographer/performer Zeltzman's interior roller coaster as she faces the trauma of being well again, rediscovers the interior of her closet, and revels in the comfort of a familiar funk: depression and insoles. Zeltzman, co-director of the acclaimed feminist dance duo Zeltzman and Colburn, collaborates extensively with Kathleen Hermesdorf, was a member of the High Risk Group and Onsite Dance Co., and currently performs with the aerial dance company, Flyaway Productions. \$5-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & S. Van

Ness). Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

#### Luna Sea Theater

Opening night: "Trans Men Tell Their Tales," original performances by FTMs. Featuring Marcus Rene Van, Ali Cannon, Jaycub Perez, Tom Kennard, and Prado Gomez. \$10-\$15. 8pm. 2940 16th St. (1 blk from 16th St. BART). Tix: 863-2989.

#### A.C.T. @ Theater Artaud

World premiere: *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field*, "a major new music-theater piece, a Rashomon-like mystery about the strange disappearance of an antebellum plantation owner. The libretto, by playwright Mac Wellman, was inspired by a short story by the SF Civil War-era writer Ambrose Bierce, about the confusion and secrecy in a rural Southern town when one of its own walks into a field and vanishes. Directed by A.C.T. Artistic Director Carey Perloff who says *Difficulty* defies categorization and "is un-

like anything A.C.T. has produced in its 35-year history." Music by provocative composer David Lang. Score performed by Kronos Quartet. Music direction by Peter Maleitzke. The cast of 10 includes world-renowned opera star Julia Migenes, acclaimed for her *Carmen* in Francesco Rosi's 1984 film opposite Plácido Domingo. \$25 & \$30. 8pm. Also March 23 at 2pm & 8pm, and March 24 at 2pm. 450 Florida St. (btwn 17th & Mariposa). Tix/info: 749-2228; www.act-sfbay.org

#### PAWS @ One Market Plaza

Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) hosts its seventh annual "Petchitecture" fundraiser, offering pet owners the chance to check out, bid on and purchase the newest in pet accessories, beds and houses designed by Bay Area architects. Enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and live music; bring your pets along (doggie daycare area available). Featuring pet beds and doghouses designed by



Vocalist Cassandra Wilson jazzes it up at during SFJAZZ Spring Season 2002. See "Calendare."

Joe Boxer, Todd Oldham, Huntsman Architectural Group, Holey Associates, and Waldo Fernandez. Including replicas of SF City Hall, the Jefferson Memorial, and homes of Frank Lloyd Wright. Celebrity co-chairs: menswear designer John Bartlett; fashion designer Todd Oldham; photographer William Wegman; and art gallery owner Rena Bransten. \$45. 7-10pm. One Market Plaza. Tix/info: 677-8688.

#### Rogue Art Space

Opening reception: "Felipe Rodriguez — Mosaics," new mixed-media paintings. Also showing are glass works by various gay and lesbian artists. Free. 6-9pm. 4360 19th St. (at Eureka). Info: 863-4940.

#### Starry Plow, Berkeley

The Garrin Benfield Band headlines a night of original live music, with opening bands Tremolo and Matt Easton. \$6 door. 9pm (Benfield performs at 11pm; show up early to support all artists). 3101 Shattuck, Berkeley. Info: www.garrin.com

## Sat

#### SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Waterscapes of Mt. Diablo hike. Enjoy a visit to lesser-traveled Back & donner

canyons where we will see waterfalls and spring flowers competing for attention. It's a moderate 8-mile hike with a 1,200-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

#### L/G Chorus of SF @ St. Francis Lutheran Church

The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco presents its Spring concert: "The Promise of Living," launching a dynamic season of concerts under new Artistic Director J.R. Foust, — culminating with its trip to Sydney, Australia for Gay Games 2002. "The Promise of Living" salutes American composers and twentieth-century innovators, leaders, and everyday people who have inspired our community. Highlights include: music from Copland's "The Tender Land," Fats Waller's "Handful of Keys," and tunes by Rodgers & Hart, Leonard Bernstein, and Samuel Barber, and others. \$15. 5pm & 8pm. Also Sun., March 24 at 2pm. Church St. @ Market. Tix/info: 861-7067; www.lgcsf.org

#### Barry Singer Gallery, Petaluma

Artists' reception: "The Body Eternal," photographs of female nudes by Ruth Bernhard, and "Falling Angels," a photographic installation by Paris-based artist Nancy Wil-



"Mosaics" by Felipe Rodriguez will be on exhibit at Rogue artspace. See Friday.





Women's Month treat: Ruth Bernhard's "The Body Eternal" shows at Petaluma's Barry Singer Gallery. See Saturday.

son-Pajic. At age 96, Bernhard is renowned for her lyrical sculptural approach to women's bodies, as well as commonplace objects. Willson-Pajic's recent work uses the early photographic medium of cyanotype in a large-scale adaptation of self-portraiture and haute couture fashion representation. Free. 3-5pm. 7 Western Ave., Petaluma. Info: (707) 781-3200.

#### ODC Theater

The Center for Art in Translation presents an evening of music, dance and poetry of the Sudanese Culture of West Java. Featuring virtuoso suling bamboo flute playing by Artistic Director Burhan Sukarma, leading his gamelan degung ensemble, Pusaka Sunda, and dancer Sri Susilowati. \$15 adv.; \$18 door. 8pm. Also Sun., March 24 at 3pm. 3153 17th St. Tix/info: 863-9834; www.odctheater.org; www.cattranlation.org

## Sun 24

#### Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

"22nd Annual Academy of Friends Oscar Night Gala," a spectacular celebration of Hollywood's most glamorous night of the year. The event raises funds for HIV/AIDS organizations. Guests watch the awards ceremony broadcast on giant screens while feasting on food, wine, and living statues. \$200. 5pm-midnight. Tix/info: 995-9890; www.academyoffriends.org

#### Hill & Valley Club, Hayward

Hayward Council Member Kevin Dowling hosts his 5th Annual "Academy Awards Party," featuring a pasta feast by Hayward Firefighters Local 1909, beer by Buffalo Bill's Brewery, and coffee drinks by Travelin' Joe Espresso. \$25 speaking role (1 person); \$50 co-stars (2

people); \$125 entourage (5 people); \$250 Director's Table (10 people). 5-9pm. 1808 B. St., Hayward. Info: Barbara Halliday, (510) 785-6276.

## Mon 25

#### Castro Theatre

Ongoing film (March 22-28) "Pauline And Paulette." A woman of a certain age, Paulette, leads an ordered life in a small town on the Belgian coast where she runs a fabric store and indulges in her passion for singing at the local opera house. She has three sisters; Martha, the eldest, has dedicated her life to taking care of their disabled sister, Pauline. Pauline loves flowers and adores Paulette. Then Martha dies. First-time director Lieven Debrauwer based the story on his childhood memories of two sisters who lived in his hometown. He enlisted two of Belgium's finest actresses: Ann Petersen imbues Paulette with a fierce pride and comic determination as she deals with her life being turned upside-down and takes responsibility for a sister she loves. Dora van der Groen brings a radiant grace to her portrayal of the disabled Pauline. With Julianne De Bruyn, Rosemarie Bergmans, and Idwig Stephane. Daily: 7 & 9pm; Sat., Sun. & Wed.: 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9pm. 429 Castro St. Info: 621-6120; www.thecastrotheatre.com

## Tue 26

#### The Commonwealth Club of California

Speaker: Andrea Dworkin, the brilliant, controversial feminist thinker, author of the new memoir *Heartbreak: The Political Memoir of a Feminist Militant*. Dworkin will tell us exactly what motivated her to crusade against pornography and fight for women's rights, especially the rights of those who have been raped and assaulted. Dworkin is the co-author (with Catharine A. MacKinnon) of civil-rights legislation recognizing pornography as legally actionable sex discrimination. Co-sponsored by Stacey's Bookstore. \$9 members, \$12 non-members. 5:15pm reception; 6pm program; 7pm book signing. Club Office, 595 Market Street (at Second, directly outside of the Montgomery BART station). Tix/info: 597-6705/6706; www.commonwealthclub.org/reservations.html

#### 2202 Oxygen Bar

"SAFE" presents live electronic music wizardry by neoeon one, plus guest DJ Spaze Crafte One. \$2-\$5 donation to performers. 9pm. 2202 795 Valencia St. (at 19th St.).

## Wed 27

#### Main Library

"High School Survival Strategies for Poets and Queers," in which Zoe Trope reads from *Please Don't Kill the Freshman*, the debut of an exciting new young voice. Trope is taking advantage of her Spring Break as a Pacific Northwest high school sophomore to read at the San Francisco Public Library and at local bookstores. She is enthusiastically endorsed by local celebs Thea Hillman, Kristi Bruce, Beth Lisick, and others with whom she'll be performing. Free. 6:30pm. Main Library, Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 100 Larkin Street (at Grove).

#### A Different Light

Author Andrea Dworkin comes to the Castro to talk directly with the gay and lesbian community about her new memoir, *Heartbreak* (see Commonwealth Club item above). Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891; www.adlbbooks.com

## Thu 28

#### Books Inc.

Thea Hillman hosts an "After School Special" featuring 15-year-old Zoe Trope, author of *Please Don't Kill the Freshman*, Future Tense Books. (See Main Library listing above). Free. 7:30pm. 2275 Market St. Info: 864-6777; www.booksinc.net/EVENTS

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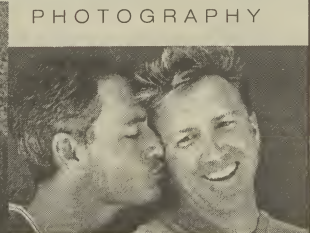
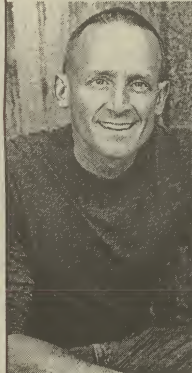
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"Pet Pisces Piece" by Peggy Blair and Silvia Vgltkova, part of PAWS' "Petchitecture." See Friday.



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# Manners and respect

A word to the unwise

by Mister Marcus

**B**rotherhood and sisterhood in the leather community are bonds that can't be broken except by disrespect and dishonor. Fortunately, the great majority of take pride in our community, and work to uphold the highest standards. Yet in rare, unfortunate circumstances, even leather people stumble and fall. I'll mention no names, but many in the community know well of whom I speak.

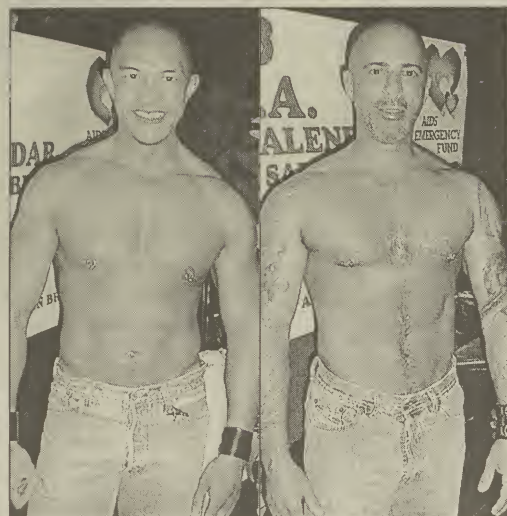
At the Mid-Atlantic Leather weekend in 2001, certain people received a pin — only a little metal pin, but nonetheless a badge of honor — dispensed by the Centaur Motorcycle Club to individuals they felt epitomized leather pride, brotherhood, and camaraderie, and who are bona-fide team players. Several San Francisco people received such pins, and to this day, wear it proudly.

Those pins are symbols of pride. It is difficult to say what "leather pride" actually means, but most define it as the spirit of genuine leather persons who embrace their brothers and sisters without question, who believe in honor, integrity and brotherhood.

Unfortunately, such qualities can prove lacking even in some of those you feel are your friends. Sometimes you learn uncomfortable truths about those who would mentor you, guide you, give you advice, comfort and encouragement in honorable and legal endeavors. It is sad to learn that someone who professed to be a friend, mentor and guide, steering you through sometimes treacherous valleys, turns out to be exactly the opposite.

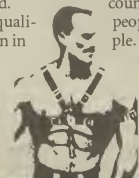
Those who profess to be leather yet who betray leather by spreading falsehoods, and who otherwise attempt to derail your goals and ambitions, ought to be held in contempt when their actions become public knowledge. And it always becomes public knowledge.

I am not pontificating here. For aware individuals, a word to the wise should be sufficient. It seems



Troy Anicete, left, triumphed over six other contestants at the Powerhouse Bar to claim the Mr. May 2003 spot on the SoMa Bare Chest Calendar. Corey Caballero, right, was chosen as Mr. June 2003.

ludicrous to have to question the motives of those who profess to be a friend, a mentor and guidance counselor, yet there it is. These people are not true leather people. Honor, integrity, mentorship and caring are the trademarks of true leather people. Without those qualities, they are a sham, a disgrace and should be avoided, if not ostracized.



Leather

Bare chest  
advances

The march to choose the 12 poster men for the SoMa Bare Chest Calendar moved forward at the Powerhouse Bar on Thursday, February 28, when Troy Anicete was chosen Mr. May 2003. More recently, Corey Caballero was chosen Mr. June 2003 on the calendar. Next up is Mr. July, who will be chosen on Thursday, March 21, also at the Powerhouse Bar.

New manual  
for title seekers

For over a decade now, the book written by Int'l Mr.

Leather1989 Guy Baldwin has been the foremost guide for people involved in the leather-title contest scene. It is a must for anyone competing at any level of leather titledom. Well written, informative, with helpful hints on what to do and what not to do during your quest for a major title, the book is bible to anyone concerned about contest victory.

Now comes another tome authored by one of the most respected leather women in the leather tribe, IMsL 1996 Jill Carter. Entitled *Leather Title Holder Manual* and sub-titled, "So you want to be a titleholder", this 90-page missive should be mandatory reading for anyone competing for a title at any level. It is updated to reflect some of the changes that have taken place on the leather title circuit, with some insights that should be recognized as we interact in this genre in the 21st century.

The book is available for \$15 at The Leather Rack in Washington, DC, Shades of Grey in Dallas, and at the Fetish Boutique in Philadelphia.

next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Thursday, March 21

Mr. July 2003 on the Bare Chest Calendar will be chosen tonight at the Powerhouse at 2130. Donna Sachet and Ray Perea will be among the four judges.

### Saturday, March 23

Mr. Leather Los Angeles 2002 will be chosen tonight, and Peter Fitz passes the sash to one of nine contenders. Thanks Pete for a great year with the title.

The 15 Association monthly play party at the usual location. \$10 members, \$15 guests. All amenities furnished. Info: 673-0452.

Wild West Bunk Party at the PDX Eagle in Portland, with some shenanigans at Club XES as well.

### Sunday, March 24

Pegasus Motorcycle Owners Club travels to Rio Vista/Sacramento River Delta. Meet at the Castro Theatre at 0900; depart at 0930 with a full tank of gas, money for lunch and bridge tolls. Call 553-3927.

It's Oscar Night, and aside from all the parties in town, you might want to trek up to the Russian River for T. Jay Cain's, "A Taste of the River" benefit featuring a swank dinner and viewing of the awards ceremony.

### Wednesday, March 27

Leather Buddies at 933 Harrison tonight. You should know the rules by now but here they are again: leather, latex, uniforms and boots, boots, boots. No cologne, no sneakers. Call 777-HEAD.

### Thursday, March 28

Mr. August 2003 on the bare chest calendar will be chosen tonight at the Powerhouse at 2130. Judges are Brock Kollivas, Frank Vasconcellos and Tom Rodgers. Win \$100. Do your part for the beneficiaries.

### Friday, March 29

Mama's 2nd annual Breast Cancer Emergency Fund dinner at Fort Mason in the Officer's Club, with a 3-course dinner for a \$75 donation. For info and reservations call 292-9808, and then press 2.

### Weekend, March 29-30

In Seattle, a week-long leather pride celebration culminates with the selection of Mr. Washington State Leather.

In Long Beach, the irrepressible Mark Malan stages the annual Mr. Pistons Leather competition. In Amsterdam, Jacques Happe stages the Mr. Leather Holland competition. Stay tuned for the results.



## POLKSTRASSE

# Lips goes on vacation

by Sweet Lips

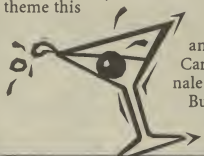
It's that time again: Easter vacation in beautiful Puerto Vallarta. Yours truly, Dick Deemer, Hal Mulvihill, Bill and Mark will be sunning for a week — and we wish all of you could join us! Our hotel, the *Posada de Roger*, is great, just one block from the main beach, and breakfast with Freddy in the hotel's El Tucán restaurant is fabulous as well, especially egg dishes like the Omelette Florentine stuffed with shrimp and spinach. Of course, dinners are at the Adobe Cafe, where they serve Nouvelle Mexican cuisine. It's a lovely room with lovely food and

lovely waiters. So, if you come to Puerto Vallarta, don't miss these spots!

As for happenings at Club Rendez-Vous, *The San Francisco Show* is Tilly's next theme this Friday, March 22 at her 'Til Friday extravaganza, and what better subject than our own City by the Bay? Beat your feet down Polk Street to the Club R-V, and be sure to wear flowers in your hair when the shows start at 10:30 p.m. and Midnight.

Watch the Oscars Sunday night, March 24, with our new bartender and actor Tarek, whose sultry good looks will make you miss the entire Academy presentation, I'm so sure!

Grand Duke Brad and Grand Duchess Carlotta will host the finale of the Mr. Miss Bunny Contest at Club R-V on Sunday, March 31, 4-7 p.m., with a little bonnet contest thrown in the egg pile. Stick around for the big baskets of the Men of Exotica, who start shaking their cotton tails at 7 p.m. ▼



Cocktail Hour

## World of sound

by Gregg Shapiro

During times of war, the world seems both very large, as a conflict plays out far away, and very small, as every detail plays out on televisions in our homes. We are made more aware of our cultural differences, and at the same time, our similarities. Music is one such common thread, and there are plenty of mind-expanding world music releases from which to choose.

With a great deal of attention recently focused on the Pakistan/India border, I begin by suggesting some South Asian listening materials. Female Asian fusion pioneer Sheila Chandra released two albums in 2001. One was a reissue of her 1985 album *The Struggle* (Narada World), and the other was *This Sentence Is True* (*The Previous Sentence Is False*) (Shakti), her first album of new material in five years, performed with the Ganges Orchestra. Chandra also appears on *Women of the World* (Real World), a various artists compilation that also includes Susheela Raman, Yungchen Lhamo, and Susana Baca. Lead singer Mona Jethmalani gives Karma Sutra their unique sound on their album *Prana* (Diva Nation).

The Afro-Celt Sound System's latest album *Volume 3: Further in Time* (Real World) features guest performances by Peter Gabriel and Robert Plant. As on their previous discs, ACSS has created a sound that is both exotic and accessible. The instrumentation merges acoustic (guitar, bouzouki, mandolin, bodhran, whistles, tabla) with keyboard and drum programming for a traditional and transcendental sound on tracks such as "When You're Falling" and "Go On Through."

Like the Afro-Celt Sound System, composer and multi-instrumentalist Badawi (Raz Mesinai) blurs the line between the acoustic and electronic worlds on his

album of Middle Eastern dub, *Soldier of Midian* (Roi). By sampling his own live playing and adding electronic touches, Badawi creates a sound that makes it difficult to sit still. Imagine a rave in Kabul (as if) when you hear tracks such as "Evocation" and "Dehydration."

As controversial a performer as his late father Fela Kuti, African recording artist Femi Kuti took a brave step in writing and recording the anthemic "Stop AIDS" on his album *Fight to Win* (MCA). A purveyor of the Afro-beat, Femi Kuti believes that "music will bring Africa back on the world map," and the dozen songs on his album, including opening track "Do Your Best" (featuring a guest appearance by Mos Def) and closing track "Missing Link" (featuring a guest appearance by Common), attempt to make that statement a reality.

### Thirst for Afro-pop

A hybrid of Afro-pop sounds, *Olajope* (Six Degrees) by Batidos (Jay Rodriguez and Ron Trent) takes its various influences seriously. The duo even goes as far as having Cuban musical legend Chucho Valdes play keyboards on the Afro-jazz opening track "Just a Dream," and piano on the undeniably Latin-spiced "Tengo Sed."

Honored early in 2001 with the release of the 20-track "very best of" collection *One Love*, Bob Marley & the Wailers were also the subject of *Trenchtown Days: Birth of a Legend* (Epic/Legacy). The earliest recording on *One Love* was made in 1973. *Trenchtown Days* goes as far back as the early-to-mid-'60s. Its 20 tunes give the listener a good idea of the evolution that was occurring in Jamaican music.

When talking about reggae, it's important not to overlook the other bands whose contributions made the genre what it is today. *The Best of Toots & the Maytals: The Millennium Collection* (Is-

land) attempts to give one such band their due. Frederick "Toots" Hibbert wrote some of his band's biggest hits, including "Funky Kingston," and "Reggae Got Soul."

More reggae classics can be found on the reissues of the back catalog of the renowned Greensleaves reggae label. Albums by artists such as Eek-A-Mouse, Beenie Man, Shaggy, Gregory Isaacs, Dennis Brown, Yellowman, and Wailing Souls are now available on CD.

While Ricky Martin, Enrique Iglesias, and Shakira appear to be interested in shedding their international attributes in favor of a more homogenized sound, the Latin rock scene continues to expand globally. On *De noche en la ciudad* (EMI Latin/Virgin Mex), Alekx Syntek puts his own stamp on songs written and performed in a variety of styles, such as dance ("Solo por ti"), the power ballad ("Juve Angeles"), and power pop ("Para ti"), without ever sacrificing their origin or originality.

As with her previous release *Tire of Life*, Lila Downs sings, in Spanish and English, about the experience of immigrants and migrant workers in her warm alto, taking an undeniable pride in her musical heritage. Highlights include "El Feo/The Ugly One" and "Corazoncito Tirano/Little Tyrant Heart."

Sing Along with *Los Straitjackets* (Cavalcade/Yep Roc) truly is a "sing-a-long" experience. A baker's dozen guest performers take the vocal leads while Los Straitjackets ably play along. Raul Malo, formerly of the Mavericks, sings "Black Is Black," Mark Lindsay (of Paul Revere & the Raiders fame) takes the mic on "Treat Her Right," El Vez puts the crown on "Rey Criollo," Exene Cervenka (of X) marks the spot on "I'll Go Down Swinging," and British punk legend Nick Lowe supplies the lead bass for Los Straitjackets' cover of his very own "Shake that Rat." ▼

Hooker Boys staged the Maryland Sir and Boy contests at the Hippo in Baltimore, with a weekend-long array of events. The winners of the titles will advance to the Mid-Atlantic Leather Sir and Boy competition later this year, but for now, Marc Andersen is Maryland Sir, and Keith Reeves is Maryland Boy.

In Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Mr. Tulsa Leather competition produced Richie Johnson, who will go on to compete for the Mr. Oklahoma Leather 2003 title later this year.

### Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

phia. Otherwise it can only be obtained by mail, with a Priority Mail shipping fee of \$3.50 in money order or cash only. For more information, email: jclmsl96@aol.com.

### More sashes

The Drummer titles in the leather nation are dead. Replacing it are the International Sir and International Boy titles, and last weekend the

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### PARTING GLANCES

**Tim Japanese Older Man**  
We met at birthday party for John at Taiwan Restaurant Berkeley two years ago. I'm the tall Chinese guy interested & attracted to you. Please call. ☎ 71607

**Macy's Dkrs Fit Rm Sat Eve 3/9**  
I left my jacket in the dressing room. You: very handsome mature man. Me: tall, lean, nice guy. Are you a nice guy? Wanna talk? Cuddle? ☎ 71630

**Tom 2/28 At Gap**  
I was too shy to ask you out. When we met, Give a guy a second chance? Michael ☎ 71608

**"Rich, Where Art Thou?"**  
We met in 1999. You: Banker, lived near Frederick Street. Glasses, Gold Gym, short hair cut, born in GA. love to cook beef, asked if I had a girl friend? Love to meet again. Ken near USF. Please call. ☎ 71629

**I'm Open To The Possibilities!**  
Tuesday, March 5- approximately 5:45pm we crossed Fremont Street in opposite directions saying hello. You: attractive man with black hair. I was carrying blue tote bag. ☎ 71631

### SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**Exploring My Gay Side**  
Good-looking WM, 50, 6'1", 195#, reasonably fit, fun, bright, loving, playful, college grad enjoys camping, dancing, reading, helping others, seeks physical/emotional connection leading to dating/tr. Race unimportant. ☎ 71557

**I'm 19 Years Old Name Christian**  
I am 19 yrs old seeing 19-22yr of age. Please call. Looking for long term relationship. ☎ 71559

### ~Young Seeking Older~

I am GAM, 29, 5'10", 175#, good-looking, seeks gay men 55-75, for dating and possibly relationship. Interests in movies, outdoor, travel, and working out. Looking for someone to share good times. ☎ 71558

**White Top With 9" Cock Wants Hot**  
White or Latino ass to fuck. You be under 40 in shape and have hot fuckable ass. I am 57, 6' tall, 9" cock drk brn hair brn eyes, glasses 175lbs. ☎ 71560

**Dom Dad/Coach ISO Sub Son/Jock**  
Stocky W/M mid-50's, attr, intel, NS, ND, ISO 30+ self-supporting trim and fit son/jock. Objective: uninhibited sexual and emotional fulfillment. TT, WS, roleplay. Other goodies. ☎ 71561

**Turkish Men Only Merhaba!**  
San Franciscan GWM 55, 5'7", 160# handsome, stable, secure, para. Fantastic life ahead, tallim. ☎ 71562

**Young Men (23-33)**  
GWM, 45, br/br, mustache, seeking young guys for dating, sex, and more. I'm 6'4", 195lbs, 32" waist and muscular and I love the energy and beauty of younger men. Let's connect! ☎ 71609

**Older WM 68-75 Needed!**  
Inexperience straight masculine WM wants to learn oral from senior mentor provide you with on-call cock sucking service on regular basis. ☎ 71610

**Attractive GLM HIV+**  
39y.o. 5'7", 153. Good shape, masculine, bottom you under 39yo GWM-GLM, smooth, clean shaven, slim. Size unimportant, N/D, N/S or fats masculine look+. 4 friendship or possible more. ☎ 71611

**"Seek- 18 To 30"**  
Strong, aggressive, serious, kissable, safe, love making. GBM who wants young hard bodied males with big swollen mountain nipples and butt to suck and fuck. No fems or fats. ☎ 71612

**"Very Slim Males"**  
Young males big swollen mountain nipples and round butt. Aggressive strong sucking and intense fucking. "Give me that ass!! I can't handle don't answer. No fems or fats. ☎ 71613

**"Give Me Muscle"**  
Big muscle build males for hard strong aggressive dominate love making. "Give me those tits!!! I want my hands on your ass!!! No fems or fats. ☎ 71614

**GWM Looking For LTR**  
45, 5'11", 240, thinning reddish hair w/pontail and beard. Works out at gym. Likes outdoors. Lives in mountains in Idaho. Looking for someone willing to relocate to area. Jim. ☎ 71632

**Executive Companion Sought**  
Howdy 31yo artistic 5'10"-157lbs light hair, clean-cut German, Scorpio, grn eyes, easy-going, passionate, adventurous looking 2 share goodtimes, hangout, explore SF, outdoors, travel, with older mase, dark featured, professional buddy, not into bar scene. ☎ 71633

**Filipino Men**  
GWM would like to service you. I love to suck deep for a long time. Seeking a casual date. If horny- please call me. Yours ☎ 71634

**\*Asian\***  
GAM, 53y.o. 5'7", slim, caring, seeks older GWM for relationship. Enjoy quiet times, cooking, traveling. No smoking. ☎ 71635

**Be Dad's Best Boy!**  
SF dad in ltr wants boy to satisfy unmet needs ongoing. Boy's submissive, oral, 30's/40's, any race. NS. Dad's 5'10", 165#, 55, HIV+, demanding-vanilla to kink to raunch. ☎ 71636

### SEEKING ADVENTURE

**"Bilbo, I Owe U One Valentines!"**  
Sorry the day turned out to become a mess. It was our day, but didn't end up like roses. I'll make it up. You'll see. "K!" ☎ 71563

**Seeking Passionate Fun**  
GWM, 47, 150lbs seeking trim Asian, Latin or Black for hot passionate sex & fun. Must like to kiss, hug & stroke. Daytimes best. Your place or mine. ☎ 71564

**Bondage Partner(s) Wanted By**  
GWM, 5'11", 165, red-brown, blue, mustache, 52, muscular top, HIV-, N/S, N/D. Enjoy body contact, CBT, TT, leather, bondage, & exploring my partners interests. Vanilla to spice. ☎ 71566

**Fisting Vers. Or Rim Slave Pig**  
Let's play take your choice. Fisted you and rim you sucking. ☎ 71567

**Sonoma Co. Oral Bottom**  
Masculine, fit hung cocksucker seeking big dick to service to completion. I dig uncult, low-hangers and big loads. ☎ 71568

**\*Passionate Sex Bud\***  
Bright, clean-cut, masculine 44yo GWM, 6'3", 175 slenderly-muscled pounder seeks built, masculine G/B! WM top who likes take-charge foreplay & fucking a mounded butt using condoms. ☎ 71569

**Hot S.V.S. Bay Boy Needs Dad!**  
6'1", 225lbs. brn/grey, goatee. Very clean 40y.old (lks 30) WM in Sunnyvale, looking for hot hairy, daddy type, for daytime fun. ☎ 71570

**Butt Son ISO Lthr Daddy**  
In-shape, 45 blond son/bot into oral/anal services for hung 60+ leather Dad into S/M, B/D, W/S and other perverse pleasures. ☎ 71615

**\*Slave Needed\***  
Dominant lean masculine guy 43 with a very suckable cock needs a younger lean guy with a nice tight butt for regular sessions. I'm negative and play safe. ☎ 71616

**"Shut Up And Ride!!!"**  
WM 37 5'10" 195lb blond/blue muscular guy wants good looking masculine men to screw, anytime and any place. ☎ 71617

**Are You An Alpha Male? Are You**  
Rugged, bold, adventurous, energetic, passionate, fearless, discipline, masculine, muscular over achiever and cock of the locker room? Need your Alpha butt fucked? Top HIV+, 5'8", 170# 7.5c. ☎ 71618

**White Top With 9" Cock Wants Hot**  
White or Latino ass to fuck. You be under 40 not too hairy good looking. I am 57 6'tall 9"cut, 175lbs. Hairy chest & stomach brn hair brn eyes. ☎ 71620

**Are You Over 65 In Need Of BJ?**  
Masculine straight ready to provide you with b/j. Being bare skin but you must be agreeable to finish wearing condom or j/o on my face, your choice. ☎ 71621

**Top Fems And Trans. Wanted!!**  
6'1" 200lb. S/W/M seeks smooth, slender, feminine guys and trans. Let me service you dry! Or bend me over and give me a really good pounding!! ☎ 71622

**Action On The Island?**  
Middle aged but hung and horny top seeks a mature, masculine, submissive guy who can handle large equipment. I like it fast and hard. Zip 94501 ☎ 71623

**Spank Your Butt**  
Goodlooking toman, 37, 5'11", 170#, works out. Seeks well-built bottom with firm, round butt for over-the-knee bare butt spanking. Into role-playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71624

**Seeking Mature Suck/Fuck Buddy**  
Fun now. Travel summer to Ashland festival. I'll pay hotels, gas, food for three night adventure if we're compatible. I'm attractive 63yo, neg, hung, versatile, NS/ND. ☎ 71637

**Uncut, Hung-9, Hairy, Masc, Musc**  
GWM, 50, 5'9", 160, balding, muscular/goatee, versatile dad. ISO masc/musc fit man, great butt, nice cock, "nipple work", verbal, light S&M, rough, tender, kiss & cuddle. Live on East Coast, visiting S.F. Apr. Nude photo required, but photo get mine. I am HIV-poz/ok! ☎ 71565

**Pose For Nude Photos**  
Mature GWM photographer in Oakland looking for in-shape GAM, GWM, GWM for nude, erotic photo models, who also enjoy lots of affection, kissing & oral pleasures. Come for the fun!! ☎ 71638

**Physique Model Seeks Affluent**  
VGL BM, 31, 5'11", clean-cut, smooth, muscular 194 lbs, hung x5 @ 9 1/2", college educated, discreet and fun loving. Seeks affluent man, any age/race for fun and adventure. ☎ 71639

**"On My Knees!"**  
Friendly over 40yo GWM mid 50's HIV- top smoker, 6' 200# looking for friendly endowed cut cocksman 40-60 to orally service. ☎ 71640

**Mature Men**  
WM 45, 6'15lbs. I enjoy being dominated by gentle seniors, alone or in groups-who like oral pleasure. Straight-acting, now-buffed, hairy A+ - Kink, raunch ok but S&M, pain, va, gay scene. ☎ 71641

**Straight Smooth Sexy Sililian**  
38, 5'8", 160lbs, 31" waist, 7" x5" cut shaved balls. Ass squeaky clean & masculine wants to party with hard bodied hung dark skinned studs only. ☎ 71642

### FETISHES

**Ball And Tit Torture!**  
W.M. 220# 45yo, goodlooking w very big balls and nips. Wants mutual w/o including stretching, slapping, weights. Also welcome men who want to work balls and tits. ☎ 71571

**Derby Jackets/Ben Davis Guy**  
Shaved-head ski-masked skinhead thug will do anything twisted. Dig cholos, tuffs, guys in derby jackets, Ben Davis gear, hoods. ☎ 71572

**"Scat"**  
GWM, 50, looking for Bk man into scat. ☎ 71573

**Sheersocks/Leather/Cockrings/ Foreskin.**  
These are a few of my favorite things. I'm Latin, 5'10", with brown hair/eyes, Van Dyke beard, pierced nips/ears. Also into body-building, pipesmoking, facial/body hair, and you. ☎ 71574

**Sub SM BD CBT TT FF WS RIM VA**  
Merciless, gagging, choking, skull fucking. Boot, foot worship, flogging, whipping, strapping, paddling. Me 35, smooth, HIV+, You dom, clean, sane, sadistic. ☎ 71575

**How Much Is Too Much?**  
WM seeking mature WM to repeatedly jack me off until balls are completely drained dry. ☎ 71625

**Anyone Into Feet/Sheer/Socks**  
Attractive Latino 35, 5'11" size 12 shoe, would like to meet Latins. Whites into same fetish under 39, non-smokers only. No games! ☎ 71626

**Young Tight Dragqueens Fantasy**  
Me-bi-7, 5'4", ISO young dragqueens (18-20) only for threesome. Discreet/fun 69, French/Greek/Wearing Victoria-Secrets.. ☎ 71627

### FETISHES

**Man W/Toe Ring Loves Barefeet**  
Lifetime excitement looking at & fantasizing about men's barefeet. Gd/king East Bay GWM, 5'9", trim, tan, HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefeet & sensual/safe all over body play. ☎ 71643

### OTHERS

**"Husky Clubb!"**  
A club for husky/ stocky/ bulky guys. Bi-weekly social/sexual gathering in San Rafael. (Sat-evenings). We'll respond to all information inquiries. ☎ 71628

**Ltwt NHB Fighter**  
Experienced NHB fighter, 5'8", 142# hairy skinhead, seeking tough sparring buddies. Private gym, ring, grappling gloves available. Real NHB wrestlers/fighters only please. ☎ 71644

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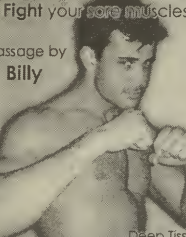
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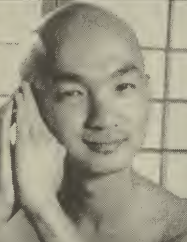
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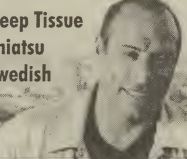
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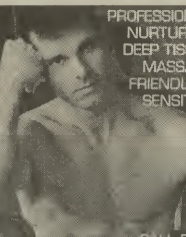
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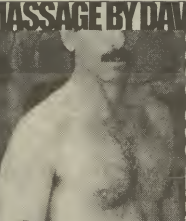
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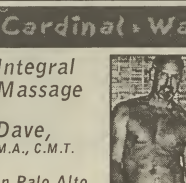
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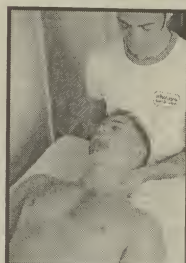
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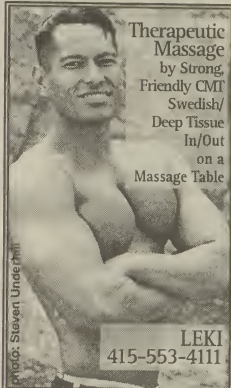


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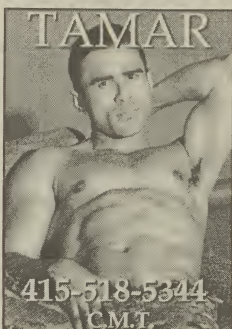
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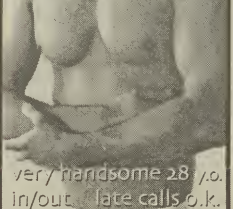
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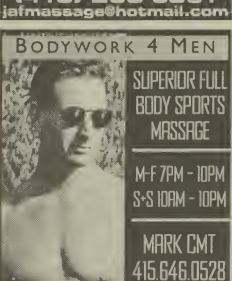
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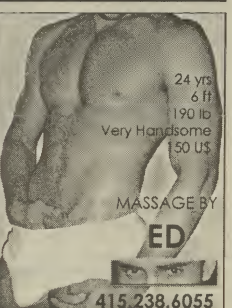


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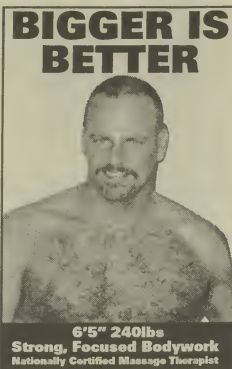
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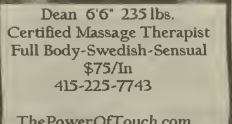
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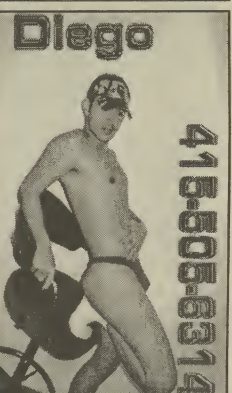
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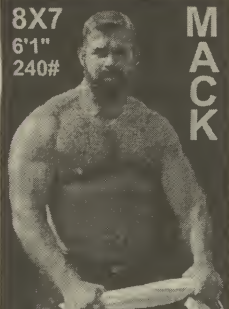
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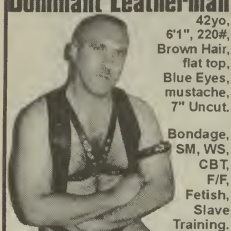
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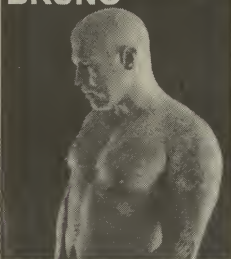
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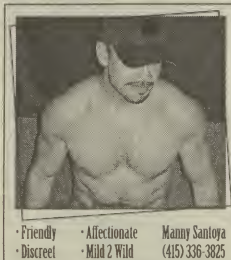


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**JUST ARRIVED**  
**HANDSOME**  
**BOSTON STUD**



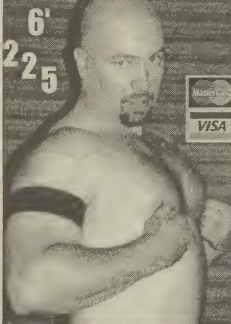
9" fat-cut,  
Brown Hair  
5'8" 175#  
\$200  
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**6' 225**



VISA

**HORSEHUNG LATIN**  
5'8" 155# Blk/brn 32w smooth  
muscular build Robert 415 414-0461 E12

**9X6 UNCUT CUBAN TOP**  
46yo 6'3" 170#. Beautiful body  
and tool. From \$80 Alex 643-7770 E12

6'225# very handsome 34yo stud w/  
**THICK MUSCLES**  
Great thighs/calves & big manly  
muscle butt. Awesome hairy chest  
19" arms; also avail. foot fetish  
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Handsome 25yo w/packed shorts  
**SOCCER JOCK**  
Lean, athletic body - top  
www.eromnos.com  
Kevin pg#605-5328 in/out E12

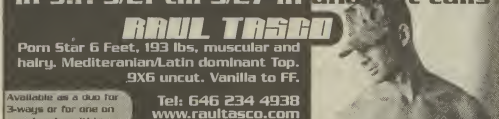
Domint\*oral/top\*kicks/back for service  
**\*10"X6\*UNCUT\***  
very verbal\*role play\*w/s\*fat tool  
goodlooking\*in or out\*847-3585 \*24hrs\* E12

**LEATHER TOP!**  
Light to heavy sensual S/M  
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6-1, 180#, muscular, 9inch cut,  
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Porn Star 6 Feet, 193 lbs, muscular and  
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9X6 uncut. Vanilla to FF.  
Available as a duo for  
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34 5'8" 150# furry toned tattooed  
**FIST MASTER**  
Jeff 415-215-8396 Out only  
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Frat Boy Hunk  
Solid Muscular Pecs, Abs & Legs  
Deep throat and young jock ass.  
5'9", 155#, 30"w, 8"246-4460 E12

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27, 5'11", 165#, blond hair  
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Goodlooking 23yo chocolate boy  
friendly & passionate w/big  
tool. 5-10, 150lbs in/out call  
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**TALL THIN HOT**  
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10"x6" CUT 6'6" 220 BR/BL 45Y0  
**XTRA HUNG DAD**  
All scenes-kink- 24hrs 255-8093,  
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34yo. musc, hung 8", 165#. 5'9",  
nice chest. Bud nasty, vers top will  
travel. (408) 607-5113 E13

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Very handsome 5'9", 190lbs of  
ripped muscle. Into all scenes.  
Extra hung and hard tool.  
Friendly masculine White guy.  
For unhurried service call  
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26, 5'11", 174lbs, 7"uncut, playful  
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Asian butt pg (415) 338-4011 outcall E17

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Hot-sexy-kinky & fun!!!  
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Into kissing, tilt play, fantasies  
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6'3", 235lbs, muscular, inked,  
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Stunning masculine 22yo 5'8"  
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Versatile, 5'10", 175lbs, muscular,  
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attractive, passionate, 10cut,  
down to earth. In/out Angelo  
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On the outside: All Amer. 6'3"200lb.  
V. musc., smooth, blond/brn, wash abs  
on the inside: wild, open, fun  
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models go to: Eric Wright E12

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Satisfied by sweet and cute guy  
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Handsome tall hung top! Man to man  
hot times 4u Clint 864-2974 E12

Party! Partypig! Naughty, hornyboy  
24h, vers, hung, sexy. SF Out 207 0508 E12

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Solid muscular 6'180 48 leather  
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w long sessions avail. Photo on  
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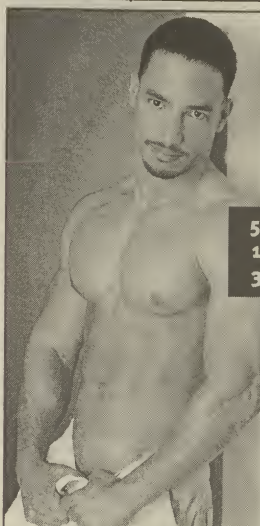
BB bottom in 60 out Bay Area  
10am 11pm 415 459 3488 E13

Hot blonde w/green eyes 5'7" 135  
**SEXY NEW BOYTOY**  
Hot & horny 22yo smooth/verstl  
in/out calls-Jason 415-948-9589 E12



## PERSONALS

## MODEL/ESCORTS


**PORN STAR ★  
Talvin DeMachio**

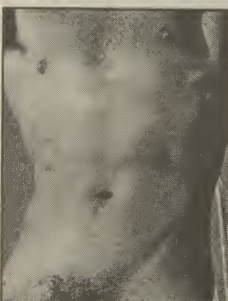
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16"arms, 26"waist,  
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**Miguel 415.550.6864 Out \$150**

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look at my muscular soccer legs  
and butt, hit me back @ 415-596-0562  
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Outcalls only James 551-8104

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Chinese.vers/top. 5'7", 130#, 30yr  
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**5'7"135# sexy, slim, smooth 908-8888**
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**FISTING EXPERT**

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MASCULINE TOP MID 40s 6'3 185#  
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**CHOKO ON THIS!**

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gentle strength & arousing edge  
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27 5'8", 150lbs 7"cut  
masculine handsome lean hard  
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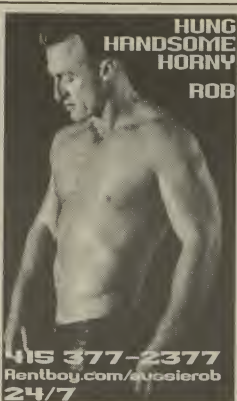
**SMOOTH LATINO**

Hot sexy xmltry muscle boy  
25yo 5'6", 140lbs gr8 ass, chest  
6.5" c Pager. 415-258-7086 Josh

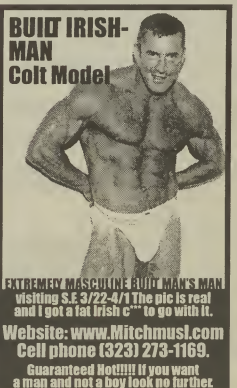
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LOW HANGERS. MUSCULAR LEAN GYM  
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24 yo cute brn/brn 5'9" smooth  
very versatile, outcall Bay Area  
David cell 415 254-4689 mmm

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Cute 24yo hot top 10"x6 cut  
Jason @ 415-414-2984

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\*Handsome\* Masculine\* Hung\* Dude\*

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Tall muscular slender 8 thick"  
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mild to wild, friendly and fun  
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9x6 TOP

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Call 415-820-1658/\$85/ Nice guy

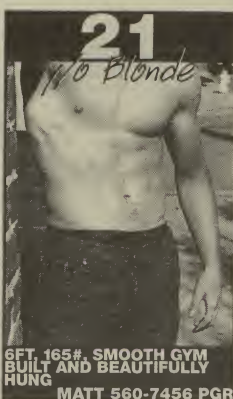
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Great face/bod

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## MODEL/ESCORTS



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*No Blonde*

6'FT. 165#. SMOOTH GYM  
BUILT AND BEAUTIFULLY  
HUNG  
MATT 560-7456 PGR

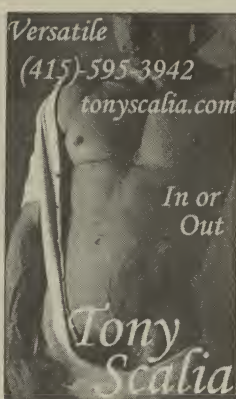
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redneck with grey matter.  
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with thick muscular legs/butt.  
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Passion8 kisser  
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5'8" 155# Blk/bm 32w smooth  
muscular build Robert 415 414-0461

6'225# very handsome 34/yo stud w/  
**THICK MUSCLES**  
Great thighs/calves & big manly  
muscle butt. Awesome hairy chest  
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\$2.00  
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CONGRATULATIONS!  
**PETER JACKSON**  
MR. SF LEATHER 2002  
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## PERSONALS

## PEOPLE

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Connect live to hot local guys or listen to the Ads for FREE! Just call  
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39.02

Good Head in Sonoma County.  
Call Days 707-823-3895

E17

Concord GAM luv's sucking cock  
Sks 20-40s STD/HIV- G/BI/BL/WM  
Pls no overweights 925 671 2704

E36/2002

**LIVE NUDE DILDO DEMO**

Hot Cub! Private Hr/20 • 208-0078

E14

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E12

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E12

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E29

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4147 - 19th St. @ Colling starring:  
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E12

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Professional, experienced photographer.  
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E12

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E12

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E15

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ming and/or feet for amateur video.  
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E13

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E13

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E12

**THE ALAMEDA COUNTY LEATHER CORPS****BEAR WEEKEND**

Friday, April 5, 2002 Underwear  
Party Saturday April 6, 2002 Mr.  
Alameda County Bear Competition  
World Famous Turf Club, 22519  
Main Street, Hayward  
Info email: mracl2001@earthlink.net  
or gmatos@PartnershipPH.org or  
www.alamedacountyleather.org

E14

Outrageous Videos! Scat WS FF,  
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E15

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E15

**S.F. SPANK PARTY INFO**

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E19

**MR LOS ANGELES 2002****LEATHER CONTEST**

Saturday, March 23, 2002  
Thank you Peter Fitz for a good year!

E12

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I'm a sexy TV seeking hot men for  
video play in Marin County. I enjoy it  
all! Selena 461-4135

E14

## XXX WEB

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men**

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## BAY AREA REPORTER

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Indicate  
Type Style  
Here ▼

X-BOLD Stops Here ▼

BOLD Stops Here ▼

CAPS Stop Here ▼

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Payment must accompany ad.  
No ads taken over the  
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Display advertising rates  
available upon request.

**RATES**

First line, Regular 4.50  
All subsequent lines 3.00  
CAPS double price  
**BOLD** double price  
**X-BOLD** triple price

**PAYMENT**

- ☐ Cash  
☐ Personal Check  
☐ Money Order  
☐ Visa  
☐ MasterCard  
☐ American Express  
Minimum \$10 charge.

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENT**

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

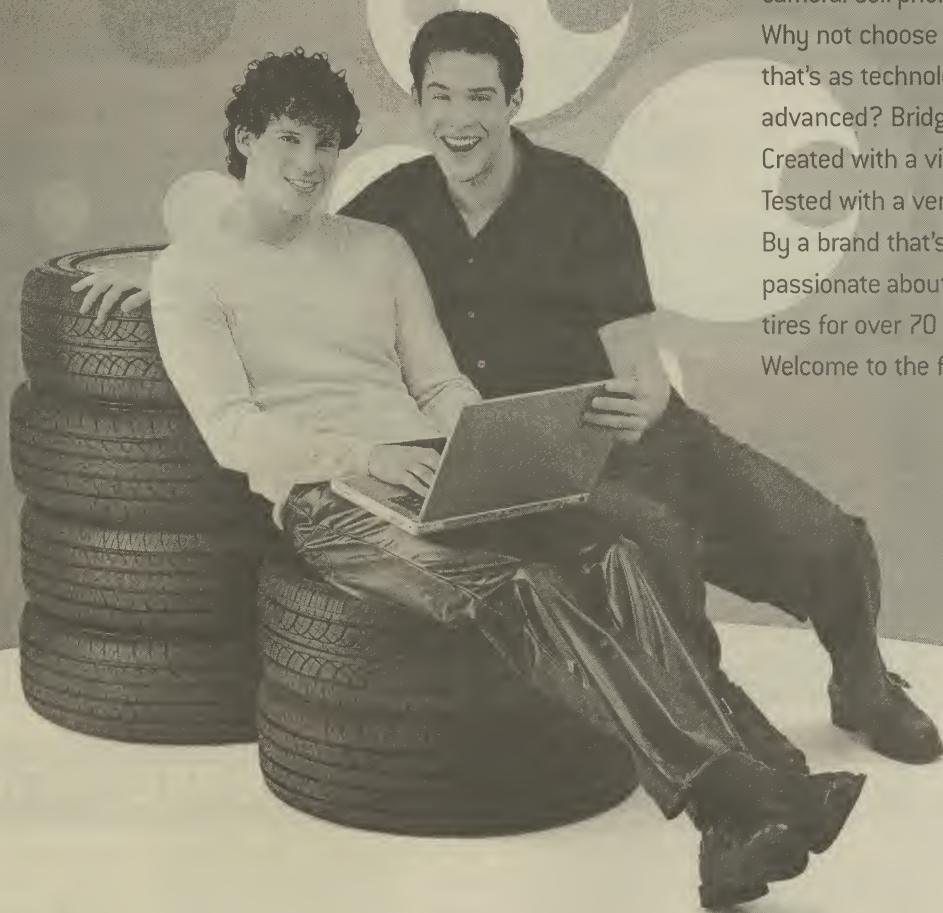
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
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